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PM draws attention to expand role of Consultative Committees

Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa has drawn attention on maintaining the role of the Ministerial Consultative Committees in a more effective and productive manner.

Accordingly, through this Ministerial Consultative Committee system, it will be possible to make the MPs aware of the legal and policy mak-



ing process as well as to engage with them in a more conversational and proactive manner.

The matter was discussed at the Consultative Committee meeting on the Finance Ministry chaired by Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa in Parliament recently.

Speaking on behalf of the Secretariat

of Parliament, Assistant Secretary General Tikiri K. Jayathilake said that these Consultative Committees have the potential to go beyond the traditional system and continue to operate more efficiently and effectively in the future.

Jayathilake also pointed out that in the context of a hybrid constitution in which the Executive and the Legislature work closely together, **▶ TO PAGE 02**

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BOND SCAM CASE TRIAL-AT-BAR

INDICTMENTS SERVED ON RAVI K, SEVEN OTHERS

REMANDED TILL MARCH 23

CHARGES OF CONSPIRACY, MISAPPROPRIATION, MARKET MANIPULATION

DILSHAN THARAKA

The Colombo High Court Trial-at-Bar yesterday served indictments on former Finance Minister Ravi Karunanayake and seven accused over the case filed against them in connection

with Central Bank bond auctions took place on March 29, and March 31, 2016. The Colombo High Court Trial-at-Bar ordered to remand the accused till March 23, when the case will be taken up again. **▶ TO PAGE 02**

CID permitted to detain Salley

RAKSHANA SRIYANTHA and SUBHASHINI SENANAYAKE

The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) has been permitted by the Defence Ministry to detain former Western Province Governor Azath Salley who

was arrested over controversial remarks that could cause disharmony among communities, for three days for interrogation.

CID sources revealed that legal action would be taken under the Prevention of **▶ TO PAGE 02**

India assures of its support at UNHRC - Foreign Secretary

RAKSHANA RIZWIE

Foreign Secretary Admiral Jayanath Colombage yesterday confirmed that India has assured Sri Lanka of its support to protect the country's sovereignty during the UNHRC sessions.

"Being the superpower they



are, Sri Lanka greatly appreciates their position," he said speaking at the Third Digital Dialogue hosted by the Media Centre for National Development.

Speaking further, he said that when the UNHRC report on Sri Lanka was tabled, **▶ TO PAGE 02**

More Judges to be appointed - Sabry

SHAVINI MADHARA

Justice Minister Ali Sabry, PC, assured that the number of the judges in the country would be increased by twofold during his time in office.

He said that the country has only 370 judges. He added that there are only 15



judges per million people in Sri Lanka whereas there are about 200 judges per million in developed countries. "I hope to double the number of Judges during my tenure," the Justice Minister said. "As an entry step, the number of Justices in the Supreme Court **▶ TO PAGE 02**

CID yet to receive advice from AG on Hemasiri, Pujith probe

SHAVINI MADHARA

The Criminal Investigations Department (CID) yesterday informed the Colombo Chief Magistrate's Court that they are yet to

receive advice from the Attorney General regarding the investigations into former Defence Secretary Hemasiri Fernando and IGP Pujith Jayasundara. **▶ TO PAGE 02**



The medals presented by the ICC to Sri Lankan players upon their victory at the 1996 Cricket World Cup which were kept with Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) were presented to the individual players at a function held at Temple Trees yesterday, to mark the 25th anniversary of that victory in Lahore, Pakistan. Here Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa presenting the medal to 1996 World Cup winning captain Arjuna Ranatunga.

Learn lessons of 1996 to win again - PM

The present Sri Lankan team players should learn a lesson from the magnificent victory of 1996 and rely on team work, sportsman-

ship and a touch of humanity to get back to a winning streak, Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa said yesterday. **▶ TO PAGE 02**

Tissue and blood tests to ascertain cause for patient's death

MAHINDA P. LIYANAGE

Galle Central Special Corr



Tissues, blood and other specimens of a person who died on March 14 following a rapid decrease in the platelet count,

would be tested to ascertain if the rapid decrease in the platelets was due to a complication caused by the Covid vaccine, that he took two weeks before his death. **▶ TO PAGE 02**

UNP concerned about abduction, harassment reports

SHIROMI ABEYASINGHE

The United National Party (UNP) is gravely concerned about the recent reports of abductions and harassment targeting journalists and outspoken critics in the country.

Speaking to the media at Sirikotha, former Parliamentarian Sandith Samarasinghe, highlighted the abduction and assault of the Siyarata News Website journalist Sujeewa Gamage. **▶ TO PAGE 02**

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Egyptian, Sri Lankan Presidents pledge to enhance ties

Reaffirming and further consolidating the cordial relationship that has always existed between Egypt and Sri Lanka, Egyptian President Abdel Fattah Al Sisi received a phone call from his Sri Lankan counterpart, President Gotabaya Rajapaksa on Tuesday.

During the cordial conversation, both Presidents discussed ways to promote bilateral cooperation between the two countries, the Egyptian Embassy in Sri Lanka said.

President Rajapaksa has expressed pride in the distinguished relations Sri Lanka has always had with Egypt while stressing the importance the country attaches to strengthening bilateral relations in all fields as well as in various international fora. This has been prompted by the pioneer-

ing role that Egypt plays at the regional and international levels and its valuable role in the field of combating terrorism and achieving security, stability and peace in the Middle East.

For his part, President Al Sisi affirmed that Egypt welcomes all efforts to intensify cooperation with Sri Lanka in various international fora, especially in light of the historic bilateral relations existing between the two countries. He also stressed Egypt's keenness to strengthen bilateral cooperation between the two countries, especially in the economic domain including joint investments.

During the call, efforts to exchange multifaceted experiences between the two countries were discussed, including combating

COVID-19 and strengthening coordination and cooperation on anti-terrorism efforts being one of the main challenges faced by the two countries. President Rajapaksa praised Egypt's efforts to combat terrorism internally and regionally as well as the initiatives taken to counter extremist ideologies. In this respect, the pioneering role of Al-Azhar University of Egypt and its affiliated institutions in combating extremist ideologies and disseminating the enlightened teachings of Islam was further commended.

Egypt was the first Arab and African country to establish diplomatic relations with Sri Lanka in 1957. Bilateral relations are currently experiencing a surge across many fields as both countries are cooperating and work-

ing together to overcome the diverse challenges presented by the COVID-19 global pandemic. Even during these difficult times, bilateral trade has gathered in momentum.

Egypt is also a traditional friend of Sri Lanka in international fora, especially in extending its staunch and unconditional support to the dignity, independence, sovereignty and unity of the Sri Lankan nation in the face of mounting internal and external pressures. In this regard, it is significant to highlight that Egypt was one of the 21 countries that spoke on behalf of Sri Lanka during the interactive dialogue on the UN Human Rights High Commissioner's Report on Sri Lanka at the ongoing 46th Session of the UNHRC in Geneva.



Transport Services and Train Compartments and Motor Car Industry State Minister Dilum Amunugama and Army Commander General Shavendra Silva at the opening of the solar-powered bus stop and 'm stop'. Pictures by Rukmal Gamage

Army designed solar-powered bus stop opened

A solar-powered bus stop a concept designed and manufactured by the Sri Lanka Army which is the first ever air conditioned multifunctional bus stop in the country was declared opened on Tuesday evening.

The air-conditioned and multi-functional bus halt crafted by skilled Army personnel of the Sri Lanka Electrical & Mechanical Engineers (SLEME) Regiment is in line with eco-friendly and comfortable facilities with digital accessories was opened by the Vehicle Regulation, Bus Transport Services and



Train Compartments and Motor Car Industry State Minister Dilum Amunugama and Army Commander General Shavendra Silva. The 'm stop' which houses an ATM, passenger seats, Wi-Fi facilities, air-conditioned seating area, CCTV surveillance, two entrances with auto sliding doors, city map navigation system, digital LCD display for commer-

cials, mini shop with grocery and reload facilities, bus time table, departures and arrivals was completely designed and manufactured by the SLEME.

The 'm stop', public facility structure is an innovation, encouraged by the SLEME Colonel Commandant after inputs were suggested by the Commander of the Army.

Pensioners' writ petition re-fixed for support

LAKMAL SOORIYAGODA

A Writ Petition filed by 95 pensioners including the former Director General of the Department of Pensions challenging the Government's decision to suspend the increments for pensioners who retired during the period from January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2019 was yesterday re-fixed for support by the Court of Appeal.

A Court of Appeal two-judge-bench comprising Justice (President) Arjuna Obeyesekere and Justice Mayadunne Corea fixed the petitioner to be taken up for support on May 12.

Former Director General of the Department of Pensions K.A. Thilakarathne

and 94 others filed this petition naming 20 persons including the Prime Minister and Cabinet of Ministers as respondents.

The petitioners are seeking an interim order to revise the monthly pension of public officers who retired during the period from January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2019.

The petitioners stated that the new salary scale introduced by the Public Administration Circular No. 03/2026 had granted a salary increase for all public officers in five phases.

The petitioners states that Secretary to Ministry of Public Administration had issued the circular No.

35/2016 (1) dated 20.01.2020 stating that the Cabinet of Ministers at its meeting held on January 2, 2020 decided to suspend the operation of the circular N.35/2019 dated 10.12.2019 until the anomalies pertaining to all the pensioners are resolved according to the policies of the new government.

The petitioners are seeking an interim order quashing the decision to suspend the operation of Public Administration circular N.35/2019 dated 10.12.2019.

Attorney-at-Law Shantha Jayawardena with Sunil Watagala appeared for the petitioners.

No truth in Opposition allegations - Yapa

Parliamentarian Anura Priyadarshana Yapa said yesterday that there was no truth in the Opposition's allegations on tax fraud in sugar imports.

He added that the Government has not given any tax concession to any private sugar importer.

He said that in recent years, the prices of essential food items had increased in November and December. "In October last year, our Government made several policy decisions to give relief to the people. On October 13 we issued a Gazette bringing down the Rs.50 import duty on a kilo of sugar to 25 cents. The price of a kilo of sugar between Rs.137 and Rs. 138 at that

time. We thought that bringing down the tax would result in the lowering of the prices of sugar in the market. That did not happen. There had already been stocks of around 150,000 metric tons in warehouses belonging to the importers and they did not release their stocks. So, a private company came forward and imported sugar under the new price and released them to the market. That was what exactly happened.

The price of sugar has gradually decreased in the market after the tax reduction. Today, a kilo of sugar is Rs.118. Otherwise, it would have been in the range of Rs.155 to Rs.160 a kilo."

Indictments served ... From Page 01

The case was taken up before the Colombo High Court Trial-at-Bar, bench comprising High Court Judges Damith Thotawatte, Manjula Tilakaratne and Mohamed Irfadeen.

The Attorney General had filed 32 indictments against 11 accused, including the former Finance Minister and former Governor of the Central Bank Arjuna Mahendran.

Solicitor General Haripriya Jayasundara appearing on behalf of the Attorney General informed the Court that she was opposed to granting bail to the accused, who had done great harm to the national economy, interest rates and the public.

She strongly opposed bail as it was a special case affecting the national economy, she added.

She further said the public was demanding justice for the Treasury Bond issue and that it was the only case in the Asian region in which a finance minister had been named as an accused in a single case.

She also sought from the Court to issue relevant orders as the former Governor of the Central Bank and the 9th accused are abroad.

The Deputy Solicitor General pointed out that the accused Ravi Karunanayake had obtained a house as a gift from the 4th accused in the case. She also stated that she was opposed to granting bail.

The Government and the country's banking system suffered losses by conducting three such bond auctions in as little as 23 months, and that the first bond auction was held on February 27, 2015, and the case was referred to the Colombo High Court Trial-at-Bar.

The Solicitor General's refusal to grant bail as the former Minister of Finance is a defendant in this case and another case related to the fraud related to the second bond auction on March 31, 2016. She said she was opposed to granting bail to the accused only on the nature of the offence.

President's Counsels Shavendra Fernando, Gam-

ini Marapana, Anil de Silva and Anuja Premaratne appeared for the defense.

The Defence stated that the Attorney General has no right to oppose bail under sub-section 450 (06) of the Criminal Procedure Code against the accused and that the High Court can grant bail under Section 14 of the Bail Act.

The Defence said the allegations made by the Attorney General were incomplete and that it was not justifiable to oppose bail when the Attorney General had not submitted the attachments to the charges.

The Attorney General alleged that the Perpetual Treasuries limited has used Central Bank's important undisclosed information to artificially alter the final outcome of the Treasury Bond auction. The Attorney General further alleged that this fraud has caused injustice to other primary sellers in the bond market and the PTL has acted cunningly and made a huge profit and conspired to cause a huge loss to the Government.

The charges are to be filed Under Section 56 of the Registered Securities and Exchange Ordinance for conspiracy, criminal misappropriation, cheating and market manipulation in respect of the Bond auctions in March 2016.

The indictments are to be filed against eleven accused. They are; former Finance Minister Ravi Karunanayake, CBSL former Governor Arjuna Mahendran, Perpetual Treasuries Limited (PTL) beneficiary owner Arjun Aloysius, PTL Chief dealer Kasun Palisena, Chairman of PTL Jeffrey Joseph Aloysius, Chitta Ranjan Hulugalle, Muthuraja Surendran, Ajahn Gardiye PUNCHIHAWA, Sangarapillai Pathumanapan, Badugoda Hewa Indika Saman Kumara.

The Attorney General alleged that the accused could be charged for conspiracy to commit criminal misappropriation in respect of treasury bonds to the face value of Rs.36.98 billion and Rs.15 billion respectively in March, 2016.

Tissue and blood... From Page 01

Assistant Judicial Medical Officer (JMO) of Karapitiya Teaching Hospital, Samadhi Dandeniyaarachchi conducted the post mortem on the death of a 40-year-old hotel worker S. Srimal, a resident of Embilipitiya. She said that a tissue and blood test would be carried out to ascertain whether the cause of the rapid decrease in the platelets of the deceased hotel worker was due to a complication caused by the COVID-19 vaccine.

The hotel employee was transferred to the Karapitiya Hospital on March 13 due to a rapid decrease in platelets and died the following day. The hotel employee had been given the COVID-19 vaccine about two weeks before the death. She also said according to the reports, the hotel worker had been suffering from fever, body aches, headaches, vomiting and low platelet counts since the injection. "He did not have any other illness," AJMO Dandeni-

yaarachchi said, "This person had blood flowing to his brain. The post-mortem examination revealed that blood clots had formed in other parts of the body. We cannot say for sure if the COVID-19 vaccine caused this complication. His disease was not Dengue either. Tests should be done to find out why the platelets had dropped so rapidly." Tissue and blood tests and bone marrow tests are scheduled to be done to confirm the matter.

More Judges... From Page 01

and the Court of Appeal has been increased."

Minister Sabry was addressing a seminar on the

importance of protecting victims and witnesses to ensure the success of the justice process, yesterday. The Minister also stated that there is a backlog of nearly 5,000 cases at District Courts which have dragged on for more than 20 years without any conclusion.

Minister Sabry further noted that the digitization of the judicial system is essential to expedite its functions and to meet justice without delay. He added that the Tender



process required to digitalise all judicial systems is in its final stages.

He said that in the current legal system, it takes a long period to complete a case - for example, it takes more than 10 years to complete a trial at the High Court.

"I'm not going to address the technical facts pertaining to the Act on Protection of Victims of Crime and Witnesses but I must say there was less investment in the Judicial system," he said. "We have not applied new technology and outdated laws are the cause of these issues in the current legal system."

UNP concerned... From Page 01

He also spoke about the recent questioning and harassment of Ranjan Arun Prasath, a correspondent of the BBC Tamil Service.

The former MP urged the authorities to fully investigate this act of violence perpetrated against a member of the media, while stating that those responsible must be found and held accountable.

He described these incidences as posing a serious threat to the hard-earned media freedom that was enjoyed in the country post-2015.

"In 2015 it was the UNP-led Government that ensured the right to Freedom of Speech was provided to all citizens. Through the introduction of the Right to Information Act in 2017, the citizens of Sri Lanka were provided with the opportunity to ensure their representatives were held accountable. This was a

right that was not afforded to the media and public in the preceding years by the Mahinda Rajapaksa Government."

He also questioned why a private citizen was harassed by the Police when she claimed that there was deforestation taking place in the Sinharaja Rainforest which borders her home. "The relevant authorities should have investigated these claims of deforestation taking place. If the Police harass private citizens who raise these concerns, then the public will be scared to come forward and raise awareness about such issues in the future."

"We urge the Government to ensure that a culture of impunity and white vans do not return to our country. It is the responsibility of the President and his Government to ensure that the freedoms afforded to the public post-2015 are retained and protected."

India assures... From Page 01

21 countries spoke on Sri Lanka's behalf. He added that many countries have rejected the resolution owing to the fact that issues deal with post-war, inter-political affairs that are outside the purview of the Council. Many countries agreed that the UNHRC has been politicised while certain Member States use the allegations as ammunition against individual countries.

He agreed that obscurity and misinformation has been a cause for unfounded prejudice in the past and that it can be ended with transparency and forthright discussion.

He appealed to Tamil journalists and intellectuals to come forward and assist the Government in its effort to carry the message to the masses.

He further confirmed that there will be no room for one-sided adjudications by foreign bodies in which judge, jury and executioner can be any one entity.

CID yet to receive... From Page 01

The case was taken up before Colombo Additional Magistrate Ranjindra Jayasuriya yesterday.

Former IGP Pujith Jayasundara and former Defence Secretary Hema-siri Fernando have been accused of failing to take measures to prevent the Easter Sunday terror attacks in 2019 despite having prior knowledge of them, and are charged

"Sri Lanka is committed to working in partnership with any entity as long as its sovereignty is honoured."

He stressed that the good work begun by the previous Government under President Maithripala Sirisena in setting up the Independent Commissions for Reconciliation, Reparation and Integration is being empowered and continued under the present Government with the recommendations being adhered to.

The Media Centre for National Development held its Third Digital Dialogue. The timely topic of discussion was on Sri Lanka's response to the Geneva - Human Rights and Geopolitical Coercion. Director General of Presidential Media Division Mohan Samaranyake and Foreign Secretary Admiral Jayanath Colombage held a candid digital dialogue encompassing a range of topics and particularly Sri Lanka's response to the UNHRC resolution.

Learn lessons... From Page 01

Prime Minister Rajapaksa was addressing a special event held at Temple Trees to mark the 1996 Cricket World Cup victory, with the participation of then Captain Arjuna Ranatunga and other players.

The Prime Minister said: "The Sri Lankan team won the World Cup at a time when the country was plagued by terrorism. Some of the countries were reluctant to come to Sri Lanka, a co-host of the tournament, due to security issues. During that period Ports and airports were identified as being unsafe for tourists."

The Prime Minister recalled that however the South Asian countries extended their solidarity to Sri Lanka and

toured Sri Lanka to stage an exhibition match. The 1996 World Cup Final was held in Pakistan with immense support given by people from other cricket loving Asian nations to our cricket team paving the way for its victory.

The then Sri Lankan Cricket Captain Arjuna Ranatunga strove hard and stood behind our world class bowler Muttiah Muralitharan when some other countries attempted to ban him from playing. The same bold decisions later helped Muralitharan become a legend in Cricket. He added that the World Cup final victory was a collective effort of all who held patriotism in high esteem.

PM draws attention... From Page 01

it is possible for the Members of the Legislature to have a better relationship with the Executive through this Committee system and this will enable to elevate the level of Parliament in the international rankings as well.

The Assistant Secretary General also briefed the Prime Minister and other Ministers on the possibility of convening the relevant parties and holding a broader dialogue between the officials and the people's representatives when the Committee discusses certain issues.

Speaking at the Committee, the Prime Minister emphasised the need to maintain Ministerial Consultative Committees focusing on the changes

in the world today. State Minister of Samurdhi, Household Economy, Micro Finance, Self-

Employment and Business Development Shehan Semasinghe, State Minister of Money and Capital Market and State Enterprise Reforms Ajith Nivard Cabraal, Deputy Chairperson of Committees Angajan Ramana-than and Members of Parliament Dr. Harsha de Silva, (Prof.) Ranjith Bandara, Sudath Manjula and Sahan Pradeep were present at this committee meeting.

In addition, the Secretary to the Treasury, Ministry of Finance S.R. Attygalle, other senior officials of the Ministry of Finance were also present.



Chinese Ambassador to Sri Lanka Qi Zhenhong donated a consignment of equipment to the Civil Aviation Authority for the protection of airport frontline workers against COVID-19. The Chinese Ambassador presented the donation to Sri Lankan Civil Aviation Director General and CEO Capt. Themiya Abeywickrama, at the Chinese Embassy premises on Monday. Ambassador Qi handed over 270 PPEs sets, 24000 disposable face masks, 4800 KN95 face masks, 120 goggles, 500 pairs of disposable gloves and 5 sterilamps to the Civil Aviation Authority on behalf of the Chinese Embassy.

Government to build 1,000 rural bridges



IRANGIKA RANGE

The Government plans to build 1,000 rural bridges in the country this year to replace the existing old vine bridges, foot bridges and small bridges, Highways Minister Jonston Fernando said.

"The new bridges will replace the dilapidated makeshift bridges in rural areas which are unstable.

"These low cost concrete bridges will be an alternative

to the makeshift wooden bridges," he said.

The Minister said Rs.9.5 billion has been allocated for the construction of 1,000 rural bridges.

"With the implementation of this project, the main road network will be connected to the rural roads facilitating the day-to-day activities of the rural people. Their livelihoods will be improved while promoting the Tourism industry as well," he added.

Navy distributes stationery items to Jaffna students

RASULA DILHARA GAMAGE - Northern Province Special Corr:

The Northern Naval Command distributed school items to children in the Jaffna islands under the patronage of Commander Northern Naval Area, Rear Admiral Senarath Wijesooriya at Mandaitivu on March 14.

The programme had been organised in collaboration with St Francis Church, Mandaitivu as another social responsibility initiative launched to mark the Sri Lanka Navy's 70th anniversary. During the event, school supplies and essential food items were dis-

tributed among a cross section of primary schoolchildren who were from rural schools on Mandaitivu, Pungudutivu and Kayts Islands.

Rev. Father David Emmanuel Pillei of St Francis Church, Mandaitivu, teachers and parents of children of the island sector expressed their admiration for this timely initiative rolled out by the Sri Lanka Navy.

Deputy Area Commander, Northern Naval Area, officers and sailors from the Command and residents were also present on this occasion.



Commander Northern Naval Area, Rear Admiral Senarath Wijesooriya and Navy personnel distributing school items to a student on Mandaitivu island.

Thalaimannar collision: Rail gates were kept open

RASULA DILHARA GAMAGE -Northern Province Special Corr.

Police investigations into the private bus-train collision at the Thalaimannar railway crossing on Tuesday revealed that the rail gates had been left open as the gatekeeper had been on leave, it was revealed during the Police interrogations of the private bus driver and conductor who are in custody.

A 9-year-old boy and 25 others suffered injuries in the collision. Twenty out of the 30 passengers on board the bus were schoolchildren.

Special Circular on Grade Six admissions

S.M.WIJAYARATNE, Kurunegala Daily News Corr.

Education Ministry Secretary Prof. Kapila Perera in a Special Circular has informed all heads of National Schools that steps should be taken as early as possible to admit students who had scored the highest marks at the Grade Five Scholarship Examination - 2020 to Grade Six classes of their schools as the Education Ministry has already declared the relevant cut-off marks in this regard.

Prof. Perera has mentioned in his Circular that since most of students had scored very high marks at this Examination, expected cut-off marks for the popular schools countrywide had to be upped automatically and hence, the Education Ministry has no way to facilitate all the students who have obtained higher marks to be admitted to leading schools in the country.

Road accidents: 950 motorcyclists died last year

IRANGIKA RANGE

The highest numbers of casualties of road accidents in Sri Lanka are motorcyclists and 950 of them died on the roads last year. During the last year, 638 pedestrians and 159 cyclists were killed in road accidents.

Moreover, motorcyclists are responsible for most fatal accidents causing 5,592 road accidents during the last five years.


This was revealed during an awareness programme conducted by the Transport Ministry for motorcyclists on how to ride safely in keeping with road rules to prevent motorcycle accidents. Motorcyclists were also educated

on the importance of wearing helmets which are on par with international standards.

During the programme, common reasons for the accidents caused by motorcyclists were identified.

The main reasons are not wearing safety helmets, riding at high speed and drunk driving. The authorities urged motorcyclists to purchase and use helmets bearing the SLS 517 certification issued by the SLSI.

The first awareness programme was launched under the patronage of Transport Minister Gamini Lokuge at the Galle Face Green.



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AstraZeneca Vaccine: A safe vaccine that will help win COVID battle

SARAH PITT

When the Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine was first authorized by the UK Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency, it was hailed as a milestone in turning the tide on the coronavirus.

But in the time since, this highly efficacious vaccine has suffered a lot of reputational damage. In January, the German press and French President Emmanuel Macron falsely claimed that it is largely ineffective in people over 65, despite there being no evidence to support this.

Yet, concrete evidence on how protective the vaccine is in older people has been lacking, leading some European countries to restrict the vaccine to under-65s. Together, these factors appear to have created high levels of scepticism in Europe and low levels of uptake.

Thankfully, more information on how well the vaccine works is arriving all of the time – and seeing the vaccine's positive effects, some countries are now reversing their restrictions on giving it to over-65s. Here is what we know so far about the vaccine's effects.

Is the Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine as protective as the others?

Trials suggested it is a bit less protective than other vaccines. Pfizer's, for example, prevented symptomatic disease 95 percent of the time in testing, whereas the Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine did so 70 percent of the time.

But recent real-world data from the UK suggests that the Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine might actually be a bit better than Pfizer's at preventing serious disease and hospitalization. However, these studies have not been set up to avoid outside biases affecting results. For example, the Pfizer vaccine was rolled out first, so might have been given disproportionately to more vulnerable people. Also, these studies are pre-prints, meaning they have not been checked by other scientists yet.

So whether the Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine is more or less effective than others at preventing COVID-19 is not clear yet. The important thing to remember is that all the authorized vaccines are safe and offer very good levels of protection against COVID-19. If you are offered any vaccine, you should take it.

Does the vaccine work in older people?

An early stage of testing – a combined phase 1 and 2 trial – strongly suggested that the Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine would offer protection to older people. It showed the vaccine generated just as strong immune response in older participants as younger ones.

However, as we do not know to what extent different parts of the immune response act against the virus, this alone did not prove that the vaccine would be effective in this age group. And in the final phase of testing – phase 3 trials – which are designed to prove that a vaccine is protective, there were not enough people over 55 to give a reliable estimate of protection for this group.

Exactly how protective the vaccine is in older people remains uncertain. But a recent pre-print suggests it works very well. A single shot of the Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine appears to reduce the chances of people being admitted to hospital with COVID-19 by 80 percent after the first dose.

Does the vaccine protect against new variants of the virus?

It depends on the variant. A pre-



AstraZeneca Vaccine packaging

Exactly how protective the vaccine is in older people remains uncertain. But a recent pre-print suggests it works very well. A single shot of the Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine appears to reduce the chances of people being admitted to hospital with COVID-19 by 80 percent after the first dose

print suggests that the vaccine may be as effective against B117, the variant that has arisen in the UK, as it was against the earlier forms of the coronavirus.

But against the variant circulating

in South Africa, B1351, a pre-print suggests it may be much less effective at preventing mild to moderate disease than it was against previous forms of the virus. It is believed this is because of a mutation called E484K, which changes the virus's exterior so that existing antibodies to SARS-CoV-2 are less able to bind to it.

Will the vaccine give me bad side effects?
You might experience some, but they should not be severe or last long. Common side effects include a sore patch where the needle went into your arm, a temperature, aching, tiredness, and feeling sick. These are not necessarily bad, because they are a sign that your immune system has noticed the vaccine and is responding to it.

In France and Germany, reports of healthcare workers experiencing flu-like symptoms after receiving the vaccine – at rates of 40 percent of people or higher – have worried people. However, these effects were also seen in the vaccine's combined

phase 1 and 2 clinical trial. Researchers found that taking paracetamol helped, and that these effects had largely subsided after seven days.

Is delaying the second dose risky?
The intervals between doses have been a bit controversial, since the 12-week gap that is being left between them in the UK is different from the dosing schedule that was submitted for regulatory approval by the manufacturer.

However, it looks like delaying the second dose to 12 weeks after the first is actually a good idea. The protection from the first injection seems to last, and if you have the second vaccine 12 weeks later, rather than four weeks as originally proposed, that seems to generate a stronger immune response. (Dhaka Tribune)

(Sarah Pitt is Principal Lecturer, Microbiology and Biomedical Science Practice, Fellow of the Institute of Biomedical Science, Brighton University. A version of this article was first published by The Conversation.)



At a vaccination centre in Colombo.

Vaccinations, a lifesaver

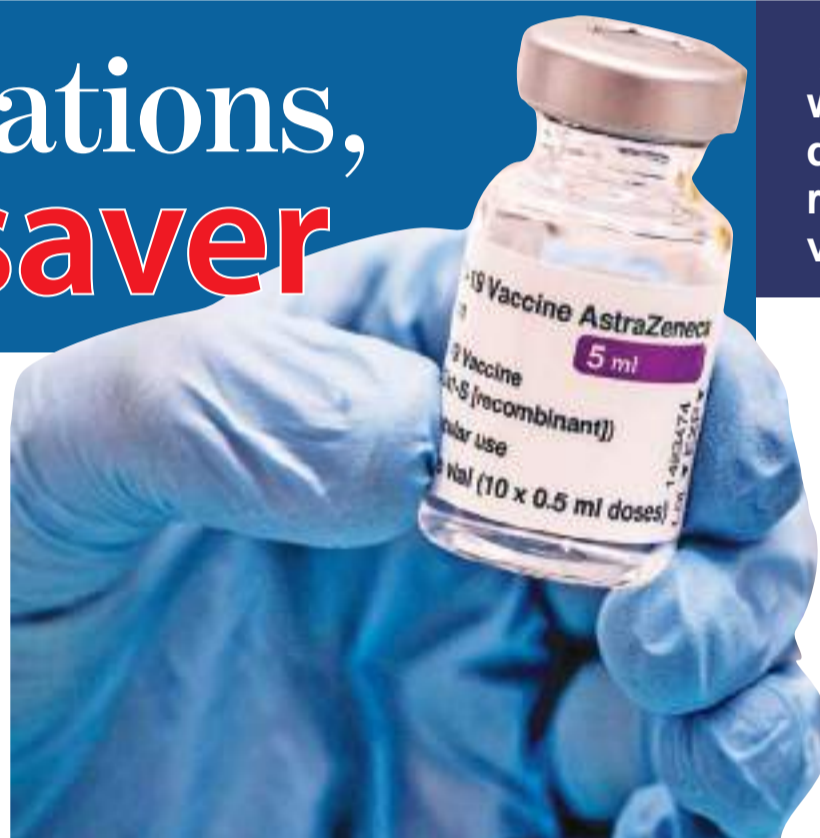
FABIAN SCHMIDT

Yes, two people died from sinus venous thrombosis, and others had to be treated in hospital. And, yes, it happened in both cases after the people had received vaccinations with the Oxford vaccine from AstraZeneca.

But to conclude that the vaccine is dangerous would be entirely premature. First, it is unclear whether the thromboses actually had anything to do with the vaccine. And secondly, we humans take on much greater risks of thrombosis day after day than we might face as a result of the vaccine.

Cause or correlation?

First, the most important thing: Some people do experience thrombosis – with or without vaccination. Whether it is a coincidence or whether there is a causal relationship with vaccination



A vaccine may protect you against a specific disease, but it will not protect you against other factors that could cause death. Currently, more very old and seriously ill people are receiving COVID-19 vaccines. People who are already vulnerable may be more likely to die of other causes

This equates to four cases per million jabs since the use of the AstraZeneca vaccine began in Germany in early February. However, this type of thrombosis occurs approximately two to five times per million people per year in the general population even without vaccination.

The cases came from a batch that included a total of one million doses. With so many jabs administered, it stands to reason that some people will also experience thrombosis within a certain time frame of vaccination – this may be a coincidence.

Nevertheless, it is right for the regulatory authorities to once again thoroughly examine all study results and available figures, as many studies have not been fully completed because of the accelerated approval procedures.

A vaccine may protect you against a specific disease, but it will not protect you against other factors that could cause death. Currently, more very old and seriously ill people are receiving COVID-19 vaccines. People who are

already vulnerable may be more likely to die of other causes.

High risk of thrombosis in everyday life

All of this is no reason to panic: We deliberately take on much higher thrombosis risks elsewhere than they might now – perhaps – come by the way of vaccination. In a well-known and scientifically proved example, for every million women who take the birth control pill, about 1,100 will get thrombosis.

In addition, various circumstances or behaviours have been shown to double our risk of thrombosis. These include: obesity, travel (especially long-distance flights, car, bus or train rides) and smoking.

All of these factors have been clearly proved scientifically. A possible link to vaccinations has not been proved at all.

But we must also consider the following: The sinus venous thromboses that have occurred are considered to be

rarer and more dangerous than other forms of thrombosis.

Vaccinations save lives

We are at the beginning of a dangerous third wave of infection with the coronavirus. For Germany, medical experts are already predicting incidence rates of over 300 per week per 100,000 inhabitants.

All vaccines currently available on the market are shown to work. That means: They prevent severe courses of disease and hospitalization, even with the now-dominant variants.

Vaccinations save lives. And AstraZeneca's vaccine also saves lives.

Given the global spread of the disease, with more than 120 million people now infected and more than 2.6 million deaths, we cannot afford to throw away even a single dose of vaccine.

Each vaccine dose belongs in someone's upper arm. And, when my turn comes, I will be happy to take the vaccine from AstraZeneca, too. (DW)

16.03.2021 - TOTAL PRIZE WINNERS PRODUCED BY NATIONAL LOTTERIES BOARD 768,238
TOTAL PRIZE MONEY DISTRIBUTED AMONG WINNERS 32,524,240.00
Rs.2,000,000.00 PRIZES 01 | Rs.1,000,000.00 PRIZES 03 | Rs.1,00,000.00 PRIZES 31

Mega Power Official Results
 DRAW NUMBER: 791
 DATE: 16.03.2021

Winning Numbers: **05 13 20 75 76**

Prize Structure	Prize Money (Rs.)	No. of Winners
1st Prize: If all 4 Numbers are correct	1,900,000.00	01
2nd Prize: If only 3 Numbers with English Letter are correct	100,000.00	07
3rd Prize: If all 3 Numbers are correct	1,000.00	123
4th Prize: If only 2 Numbers with English Letter are correct	500.00	227
5th Prize: Only 2 Numbers are correct	100.00	5,677
6th Prize: If only 1 Number with English Letter is correct	44.00	3,737
7th Prize: Only 1 Number are correct	28.00	92,542
8th Prize: Only English Letter are correct	28.00	16,916

Next Mega Super Prize: Rs. 122,926,462.80

Next Power Super Prize: Rs. 20,938,204.80 | **Next Grand Super Prize: Rs. 10,000,000.00**

Total Prizes Won in This Draw: Rs. 4,845,040.00

Mahajana Sampatha Official Results
 DRAW NUMBER: 4428
 DATE: 16-03-2021

Winning Letter: **K** | Winning Numbers: **1 5 0 7 6 2**

Prize Structure	Prize Money (Rs.)	No. of Winners
1st Prize: 1 5 0 7 6 2	2,000,000.00	01
2nd Prize: 5 0 7 6 2	900,000.00	14
3rd Prize: 1 0 7 6 2	10,000.00	132
4th Prize: 7 6 2	1,000.00	1,329
5th Prize: 6 2	100.00	13,307
6th Prize: 2	20.00	131,928

Prize structure - from left to right:

Prize Structure	Prize Money (Rs.)	No. of Winners
1st Prize: 1 5 0 7 6	10,000.00	12
2nd Prize: 1 5 0 7	1,000.00	135
3rd Prize: 1 5 0	100.00	1,338
4th Prize: 1 5	50.00	13,220
5th Prize: 1	20.00	52,848

Value of prizes won in this draw - Rs. 12,125,020.00

The Super Prize of next draw: Rs. 15,263,152.00

Govisetha Official Results
 DRAW NUMBER: 2723 | DRAW DATE: 16/03/2021

English Letter: **B** | Winning Numbers: **37 44 55 64**

Prize Structure	Prize Money (Rs.)	No. of Winners
1st Prize: If all 4 numbers correct	1,000,000.00	01
2nd Prize: If letter & any 3 numbers correct	100,000.00	08
3rd Prize: If any 3 numbers correct	2,000.00	200
4th Prize: If letter & any 2 numbers correct	1,000.00	308
5th Prize: If any 2 numbers correct	100.00	10,292
6th Prize: If letter & any number correct	40.00	8,818
7th Prize: If any number correct	20.00	170,309
8th Prize: If only the letter is correct	20.00	31,057

TOTAL WINNERS OF THIS DRAW: 219,094

TOTAL PRIZE MONEY WON IN THIS DRAW: Rs. 7,927,460.00

Super Prize for the next draw: Rs. 75,087,274.80

Dhana Midhanaya Official Results
 Date: 16/03/2021
 Draw Number: 465

English Letter: **O** | Winning Number: **16 33 36 47**

Prize	Combination	Prize (Rs.)	No. of Winners
1st Prize	If all numbers are correct	1,000,000.00	01
2nd Prize	If English Letter and 3 numbers are correct	100,000.00	02
3rd Prize	If English Letter and 2 numbers are correct	3,000.00	91
4th Prize	If English Letter and 1 number are correct	1,000.00	206
5th Prize	If any 3 numbers are correct	100.00	5,571
6th Prize	If English Letter and 1 number is correct	60.00	3,722
7th Prize	If 1 number is correct	20.00	92,912
8th Prize	If any English Letter is correct	20.00	17,373

Total prize money won in this draw: Rs. 4,467,120.00
Number of Prize Winners in this draw: 119,880

Next Draw Super Prize: Rs. 88,222,590.80

Official Results
 DRAW DATE: 16/03/2021 | DRAW NUMBER: 1563

Super Number: **02** | Winning Numbers: **20 26 47 55**

Prize	Prize Money (Rs.)	No. of Winners
1st Prize: All 4 numbers are correct	500,000.00	-
2nd Prize: Super Number & 03 numbers are correct	20,000.00	10
3rd Prize: 03 numbers are correct	5,000.00	126
4th Prize: Super Number & 02 numbers are correct	200.00	386
5th Prize: 02 numbers are correct	100.00	5,503
6th Prize: Super Number & 01 number is correct	60.00	4,065
7th Prize: 01 number is correct	20.00	68,219
8th Prize: Only the Super Number is correct	20.00	18,441

TOTAL PRIZES WON IN THIS DRAW: Rs. 2,959,600.00

Super Prize of the next draw: Rs. 3,089,825.20

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ETI case: Edirisinghe siblings remanded till March 30

SHAVINI MADHARA

The former directors of ETI and Swarnamahahal Jewellers (Pvt) Ltd, who were arrested on Tuesday under the terms of the Money Laundering Act were ordered to be remanded till March 30 by Colombo Fort Magistrate Priyantha Liyanage yesterday.

Senior Deputy Solicitor General (SDIG) Haripriya Jayasundara appearing on behalf of the prosecution stated that charges have been filed against the suspects in terms of the Finance Business Act and the Money Laundering Act.

Jeevaka Edirisinghe, Nalaka Edirisinghe, Asanka Edirisinghe and Anjali Edirisinghe were arrested on the instructions of the Attorney General on March 16.

SDSG Jayasundara further pointed out that the ETI and Swarnamahahal had faced a

serious financial crisis in 2012 but had continued to accept deposits even after Central Bank regulation.

"By the time the Central Bank appointed a Financial Management Board in 2018 to take full control of the two institutions, ETI had liabilities of Rs 6.4 billion and Swarnamahahal Rs 7.2 billion," SDSG Jayasundara stated.

She further explained that the total deposits of Rs. 13.6 billion had been maintained by these institutions as undisclosed accounts in a manner not subject to Central Bank regulation.

Accordingly, the SDSG Jayasundara said that these former directors had committed offences of fraud and breach of criminal trust mentioned in the Penal Code.

SDSG Haripriya Jayasundara also men-

tioned that the suspects had also maintained black money which is an offence under the Money Laundering Act in maintaining accounts not disclosed to the Central Bank.

Meanwhile, President Counsel Anuja Premaratne appearing on behalf of the suspects informed the Court since January 2, 2018 ETI was handled by the Central Bank and under authorization of Central Bank. Swarnamahahal had been also sold to another party.

"Swarnamahahal had been sold and that money was used to repay depositors. Shares were also transferred to the Central Bank," he said.

President's Counsel Anuja Premaratne added that there was no evidence to charge these suspects and to remand them.



The suspects being taken to the remand prison. Picture by Sulochana Gamage

Mother of Kamal Addararachchi passes away

Leela Addararachchi, mother of actor Kamal Addararachchi, has passed away at the age of 83. She was a mother of two sons and three daughters.

Her remains lie at her residence on 540/16, Weerasinghe Gardens, Pitakotte. Her cremation will take place at the Baddegama Cemetery on March 18, at 6:00 p.m.



Shani's health said to be deteriorating

Counsel calls for expediting investigation

LAKMAL SOORIYAGODA

The Court of Appeal was yesterday informed that former Criminal Investigation Department (CID) Director Shani Abaysekera's life was in danger due to poor health. This was revealed when the revision applications filed by the former CID Director and Sub-Inspector Sugath Mendis were taken up before the Court of Appeal.

Abaysekera was arrested and remanded for allegedly fabricating evidence in the murder of businessman Mohammed Shiyam. Senior Counsel Viran Corea, appearing on behalf of the former CID Director, submitted to court that there was grave urgency as the period the suspect was being held in remand custody was too long.

The Court of Appeal directed the Attorney-General to file objections by April 29 without asking for more time, as a matter of urgency. Corea submitted to court that Shani Abaysekera's life and health are being jeopardised by the officials who are delaying the investigation.

He added that it is an established legal principle

that remand is not a means of punishment and should only be allowed strictly to the extent absolutely needed. He said that the time taken for the case was too much.

Meanwhile, the revision application filed by Sub-Inspector Sugath Mendis, seeking an order to release him on bail, was fixed for support on April 1. Filing revision applications through their lawyers, the petitioners requested the Court of Appeal to revise and set aside the Gampaha High Court's order to refuse bail and sought an order to grant bail to the petitioners on any condition that court shall deem fit.

Shani Abaysekera was arrested by the Colombo Crimes Division (CCD) for allegedly fabricating evidence in the murder of businessman Mohammed Shiyam in 2013, in which then Deputy Inspector General of Police Vass Gunawardena and several others were sentenced to death for committing and conspiring to commit murder. Counsels Chaminda Athukorala, with Hafeel Faris, appeared on behalf of Sugath Mendis.

Vivekananda College celebrates 95th anniversary



Vivekananda College will celebrate its 95th anniversary on March 24.

It was the first Hindu school that was set up in Colombo with the purpose of uplifting education in the island. Thanks to the efforts of Swami Vipulanandar and Swami Sachithanandan on March 24, 1926, it drew its principal inspiration from the historic visit to the island by that great spiritual leader of India, Swami Vivekananda in 1897. The first Principal of the school was K. Arunachalam and the first manager of the school was Arunachalam Mahadeva.

Man held with 2.245 kg of heroin

Officers attached to the Jawayawardena Police Special Task Force arrested a suspect with 2.245 kg of heroin in his possession at Rajagiriya on Tuesday evening.

The suspect, who is a resident of the same area, was arrested at 6:55 p.m. and was handed over to the Police Narcotics Bureau (PNB). Investigations are continuing.



The Kapilavastu Pura Sri Sarvajna Dhatu Purana and Rajaguru Waskaduwe Sri Subhuti Mahimi's research book's launching ceremony was held under the patronage of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa at the Bandaranaik Memorial International Conference Hall (BMICH), yesterday.

Pictures by Sulochana Gamage.

Student bags three top awards at Jaffna University's 35th Convocation

Irshad Sreenthaj from Nachchaduwa, Anuradhapura, won a Gold Medal and two top Memorial Prizes at the 35th Convocation of the University of Jaffna, which was held on February 24 and 25.

She is a past pupil of the A/Nachchaduwa Muslim Maha Vidyalaya and Jamiah Ayesha Siddeeqah in Mawanalla.



Sreenthaj's Grade Point Average (GPA) score was the highest in the Arts Faculty's graduating class of 2020.

She won the Dr. Nagalingam Balakrishnan Memorial Gold Medal for Economics for being the best student in Economics at the 2017 Special Degree Examination, the Sir Arunachalam Mahadeva Memorial Prize for being the best student in Economics at the 2017 Special Degree Examination, and the Myliddy S. Swaminathan Memorial Prize for being the top student obtaining First Class at the 2017 Final Special Degree Examination. Irshad Sreenthaj is an Emerging Young Economics Scholar (EYES) in Sri Lanka.

NYSC launches project to find youth with sports skills

PRASAD PURNAMAL, Puttalam District Group Corr.

The National Youth Services Council (NYSC) launched a project recently to find youth with sports skills who aren't taking part in any events. The programme, titled 'Talent Hut', will be held at 12 locations across the country, Puttalam District NYSC Assistant Director Anil Siri Herath said.

Two recruiting events under the

project were held in Chilaw and Kilinochchi, yesterday. Youth from the Puttalam, Gampaha, Anuradhapura, and Kurunegala districts participated in them, Herath said. He added that around 240 female youth participated in the events.

Identifying talented youth in rural areas and helping them reach national and international-level events is the main purpose of the project, the Assistant Director said.



Participants at the recruiting event held in Chilaw. Picture by Prasad Purnamal, Puttalam District Group Corr.

Menikpaya villagers lament lack of bridge

HIRIYALA GROUP CORR.

Residents of the Menikpaya Village in Ibbagamuwa face difficulties in transporting their produce to nearby towns as the bridge across Neerammulla Oya has collapsed. The first bridge

across the oya was constructed in 2010. It collapsed in 2012. It was rebuilt that same year, yet collapsed again after two months.

Villagers said that during rainy seasons, their children are unable to go

to school with the rising water levels. When contacted by the *Daily News*, Ibbagamuwa Pradeshiya Sabha Chairman Ajith Wickremasinghe said that MP Sumith Udukumbura has pledged to look into the matter.



Villagers using a plank to cross the Neerammulla Oya. Picture by Hiriya Group Corr.

'Salley's recent statements contradict what he said as Western Province Governor'

DILSHAN THARAKA

Azath Salley's recent statements contradict what he said as the former Western Province Governor, Education Reforms State Minister Susil Premajayantha said yesterday. He was speaking at a press conference held at the SLPP Head Office in Colombo.

"As far as I know, Salley could not contest elections after he was elected Deputy Mayor Colombo. He recently served as the Governor of the Western Province as well," the state minister said.

Some of his statements are subject to Criminal Law and the Prevention of Terrorism Act. That is why he has been arrested under the instructions of the Attorney-General, Premajayantha added.

The state minister also said that Salley's comments comparing 2019's revenue to 2020 was unfair due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The whole world is facing an economic recession and the government has to bear additional costs for quarantine and other COVID-19-related expenses, he added.

01ST YEAR REMEMBRANCE (21st March 2021)



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As in the hour you passed away


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10 *	03 *
1931	2020



DAVID CHARLES ABRAHAM

Sadly missed and fondly remembered by his beloved children, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, grandchildren and all the great grandchildren.

Eagerly awaiting to meet him in the presence of our Lord

AUCTION SALE OF UNREDEEMED GOLD ARTICLES

We hereby give notice that the auction sale of unredeemed gold articles which was to be held at Kurunegala Branch on 20.03.2021 is postponed to 03.04.2021

Assistant General Manager (Operations and Administration)
450, Galle Road, Colombo 03.

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The Bharathi Women's Association and the Eros Democratic Progressive Alliance organised a religious ceremony for Maha Shivaratri at the Hantana Estate in Kandy, recently. Picture by J.M.Hafeez, Akurana Group Corr.



The Grand Finale of Sri Lanka Vanithabimana was held parallel to International Women's day on 8th March 2021, at the Nelum Pokuna Mahinda Rajapaksa Theatre.

The event, which was hosted by NDB Bank and Sirasa News 1st felicitated a number of Sri Lanka's female achievers, who are fast breaking new ground. The entire Vanithabimana platform was a National Level program that has empowered women and made them direct participants of the Sri Lankan economy.



Dr. Vajira Chithrasena



Deshabandu Susanthika Jayasinghe



Visharada Nanda Malini



Ms. Sumithra Rahubaddha



Kalasoori Latha Walpola



Dr. Paba Palihawadana's award received by a representative



Ms. Asha De Vos's award received by a representative



Kalakeerthi Iranganie Serasinghe



Kalakeerthi Sumithra Peiris



Ms. Jayanthi Kuru-Uthumpala's award received by a representative



Chamari Lakmali Kumari
Entrepreneur Up and Coming
(Western Province)



Damayanthi Darsha
Sports
(Western Province)



Damayanthi Pushpakumari
Social Services
(Sabaragamuwa Province)



Nilupuli Indiketiya Hewage
Environmental Management
(Central Province)



Ms. Pushpa Ramyani De Soya
Most Popular Woman



Shiromi Pathirana
Entrepreneur Small
(Central Province)



Bhagya Sanjeevani
Young Leader
(Southern Province)



Damayanthi Rathnayake
Entrepreneur Micro
(Eastern Province)



Priyanka Weerasekara
Education
(Western Province)



Yasarath Kamalsiri
Director/General Manager - News 1st



Most Popular Woman Category Award Nominees



Chevaan Daniel
Group Director - Capital Maharaja Group



National Winners and Most Popular Woman



Dimantha Seneviratne
Director/Group Chief Executive Officer
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A+ (Ika) Fitch Rating - National Development Bank PLC (PQ 27) is a licensed commercial bank supervised by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka.



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Thursday, March 18, 2021

Guarding against a repeat

The Government has ruled out imposing travel restrictions during the Sinhala and Tamil New Year period but wants the public to observe the prevailing health guidelines. Co-Cabinet Spokesman Minister Dr. Ramesh Pathirana said the Government had not taken any decision to impose travel restrictions during the upcoming New Year season although the health authorities have requested the people to restrict their movements. Dr. Pathirana said it was important that people abide by the health guidelines.

After all, it is business as usual in the country with State and private sector institutions, businesses and commercial enterprises operating at full tilt after the year-long enforced closures due to the Coronavirus pandemic. Schools too have opened and sports activities and tournaments now in full swing. So why, one would ask, place roadblocks in the way of people enjoying the New Year festivities?

But a word of caution will not be out of place here. One only has to recall the steep rise in the COVID cases observed after the Christmas and New Year celebrations to entertain thoughts of optimism that the worst is behind us. On that occasion too, restrictions were lifted against the warnings of the PHIs who took the authorities to task subsequently for not paying heed to their pleas. Now health authorities themselves have cautioned against free movement by the public.

They indeed have a case. The public may well entertain notions of safety following the extensive vaccination programme now underway in the Western Province and likely lower their collective guard as happened before. Also unlike the last Sinhala and Tamil New Year, the pandemic has assumed a complex nature with various strains of the virus to contend with against which the vaccine may or may not have an answer.

We have only administered the first dose yet, with those inoculated still under risk until the second jab is received. Even in the case of those who received the first shot there is a time lag of nearly one month before some immunity could set in, according to experts. Thus we are by no means out of the woods, at least for another one month.

As per the opinion of the health experts a careless act by even a single individual could turn the clock back bringing to naught the entire vaccination programme. This is why the health authorities have sounded a word of caution and want the public to restrict their movements. Their logic could also have been based on the fact that the New Year is marked by a mass exodus from Colombo - that not long ago was teeming with pandemic cases - to the villages and there is no guarantee that among this lot there would not be carriers that could take the pandemic to the hitherto largely untouched hinterland.

Asking these people to observe the distance rule too is of no avail. There are a myriad of events and customs associated with the New Year which would make it impossible to observe certain health guidelines such as social distancing. Unlike Christmas that was largely confined to Colombo and limited areas will the Police and PHIs have the necessary manpower resources to enforce the health guidelines in the far flung villages, home to the 70-75 percent of the population celebrating the New Year? Besides, according to reports a number of positive cases had been detected in the Southern Province in the past few days and there is the risk that those leaving for the main cities in the South for the New Year could bring back the virus on their return in which case the vaccination programme would be in vain.

We are sure that the last thing the Government wants to see is the re-escalation of the pandemic in the Western Province after all the trouble it has gone to and resources expended to arrest the runaway trend of the virus there. According to State Minister Dr. Sudarshani Fernandopulle the drop in the number of cases in Colombo was not due only to the vaccine but the realization by the public of the risk they run and their strict adherence to the health guidelines. Will they be as careful once they leave Colombo for the villages to celebrate the New Year festivities with all the fun activities associated with it?

The Government of course is in a dilemma. It cannot impose strict restrictions on what after all is a national festival. At the same time it cannot also afford to have another explosion of the virus as witnessed immediately after the Christmas and New Year celebrations where lockdowns were lifted and restrictions dispensed with. It is not feasible to carry out PCR or Antigen tests *en masse* on those exiting the Western Province as was done before, given the sheer numbers who will be homebound for the New Year. The least it could do is exercise maximum vigilance and have a stepped up campaign to inform the public of the ever present danger of another outbreak of the pandemic if precautions are not taken, as a mitigation measure.

A challenging week for Sri Lanka

Hindsight

LAKDEV LIYANAGAMA

Sri Lanka faces a challenging task at the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) next week as it takes on Western nations which are proposing to pass a Resolution censuring the country for alleged human rights abuses, mostly during the final phase of the Eelam war 12 years ago.

The 47-member Council will vote on a Resolution, the text of which has been weighted heavily against Sri Lanka. The Resolution is now being led mainly by the United Kingdom, Canada and Germany. North Macedonia, Malawi and Montenegro are the other countries of this so-called 'Core Group'.

In the lead up to the Resolution, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCHR), Michele Bachelet had released a report assessing Sri Lanka's human rights record. Colombo considers this report extremely biased and founded on unsubstantiated accusations.

The UNHRC resolution on Sri Lanka, which is likely to be put to a vote on Monday is based on this report. Although Colombo has lodged a strong protest regarding the accuracy of the claims made in Bachelet's report, the 'Core Group' countries and the Council have continued to rely on the report.

It is therefore no coincidence and hardly surprising that the report by Bachelet, a former President of Chile who has been the UN's High Commissioner for Human Rights since 2018, and the resolution on Sri Lanka carry the same title: "Promotion of Reconciliation, Accountability and Human Rights."

Initially there were some attempts to modify the language in the Resolution, in an effort to get Sri Lanka to agree with it. However, these efforts failed when the UNHRC remained intransigent regarding the text of some of the more contentious claims in the Resolution.

Colombo has noted that the conduct of the UNHRC has not been impartial in the events leading up to the resolution and the Government has raised at least two instances where the Council appears to be blatantly acting at the behest of certain countries, ignoring Sri Lanka's requests for impartiality.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

For instance, the Government of Sri Lanka responded to Commissioner Bachelet's report with a detailed, 30-page rebuttal titled "Observations of the Government of Sri Lanka on the Report of the OHCHR on Sri Lanka" highlighting the ambivalence of the claims in the Commissioner's Report.

Despite this document being a formal response from a Government, this was initially not circulated to the members of the UNHRC. It took a statement from Foreign Minister Dinesh Gunawardena at a session dedicated to discuss the Resolution on Sri Lanka to rectify this serious anomaly.

In another detail that is detrimental to Sri Lanka, the proposed Resolution devotes an entire paragraph to what it calls "marginalisation and discrimination against the Muslim community" in the country. This is with reference to regulations banning burials following the COVID-19 pandemic.

The proposed resolution states that "Cremations for those diseased from COVID-19 have prevented Muslims and members of other religions from practicing their own burial religious rites, and has disproportionately affected religious minorities and exacerbated distress and concerns".

It will be recalled that initial guidelines, formulated by health experts in the country, prevented the burial of those who succumbed to COVID-19. These guidelines were formulated based on the available evidence at the time for an illness that was still evolving and regarding which little was known.

This was however seen by some as a communal issue and the Government was accused of attempting to discriminate against the Muslim community. Since then, with more evidence becoming available, the Government has allowed burials and several such burials have been carried out.

Sri Lanka's Permanent Representative at the United Nations in Geneva, C. A. Chandraprema has brought this to the attention of the UNHRC, noting that this item would be redundant at the time the Resolution is formally considered for adoption. Despite these objections, it is still being included.

This move to retain this clause when it serves no valid purpose has been interpreted in Colombo as a move by the 'Core Group' countries to enlist the support of Islamic nations to vote against Sri Lanka. These countries have historically been supportive of Sri Lanka at previous sessions of the UNHRC.

PRIME MINISTER IMRAN KHAN'S VISIT

It may also be a reaction to Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan's recent visit to Sri Lanka. Prime Minister Khan concluded a successful two-day visit to the country where bilateral relations were strengthened. The Pakistani Premier is reputed as wielding considerable influence over Islamic states.

Sri Lanka's other neighbour, India, meanwhile has maintained a studied silence on what stance it will adopt. It is known that voting at the UNHRC often follows a pattern of different countries voting in 'blocs'. As such, India's position will have a significant impact on the votes of other countries.

Relations between Colombo and New Delhi have not been the best in recent months. This was after Sri Lanka refused to lease the Eastern Container Terminal (ECT) at the Colombo Port to Indian interests. It is expected that India will abstain from voting on the Resolution relating to Sri Lanka at the UNHRC.

These events have not helped diplomatic consultations regarding the UNHRC Resolution. The Government has strongly maintained that it will not barter away the country's integrity or be intimidated by the threats of sanctions or proceedings against it in an international court of inquiry.

The Government has felt that the UNHRC, instead of being an impartial body that is focused on justice and fair play not only for all citizens but also for sovereign Governments, is being politicised by interested parties and certain countries to further their own agendas and political gains.

Foreign Minister Dinesh Gunawardena said the lead taken by the United Kingdom in the 'Core Group' was not desirable. "It is an unfriendly act by the United Kingdom as a member of the Commonwealth to lead a group sponsoring the Resolution which is intrusive and violates our sovereignty," he said.

There were also concerns in Government that in an unrelated issue, the United Kingdom may lift the proscription on the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE). The ban was imposed in 2001 after lobbying by Lakshman Kadirgamar, then Foreign Minister in Chandrika Kumaratunga's Government.

The United Kingdom's Proscribed Organisations Appeal Commission (POAC), an independent body, has ruled that the Home Secretary must consider taking the LTTE off the Government's list of outlawed bodies. Home Secretary Priti Patel has been ordered to review the ban on the terrorist group.

Also agitating for lifting the ban in the United Kingdom is the self-styled 'Trans-national government of Tamil Eelam' (TGTE), a grouping of LTTE rump organisations. The TGTE has launched legal action against the Home Secretary over the ban, saying the LTTE is no longer engaged in terrorism.

It is no co-incidence that among those campaigning vigorously against the Sri Lankan Government at the UNHRC is the TGTE. Its self-proclaimed 'Prime Minister', Visuvanathan Rudrakumaran was one of the first to respond to Foreign Minister Dinesh Gunawardena's remarks to the UNHRC.

"The TGTE calls upon all Member States to introduce a new revised resolution that provides a clear path to justice, meets the Council's obligations as also the global demand for referral of Sri Lanka to the International Criminal Court," Rudrakumaran said, issuing a statement in response to the Minister.

There was also speculation that, while Sri Lanka remained strongly opposed to the UNHRC, it could potentially invite the UN Human Rights Commissioner Michelle Bachelet to visit Sri Lanka. This is being considered on the basis that the Commissioner could then "see for herself" the ground situation.

DIPLOMATIC SUPPORT

The matter is being discussed at the highest levels, officials said, but added that this has not been finalised. If a formal invitation is extended and High Commissioner Bachelet accepts, she would be the third UN High Commissioner for Human Rights to visit Sri Lanka in the last decade.

In 2013, the then United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Navanethem Pillay visited Sri Lanka when Mahinda Rajapaksa was President. Three years later, Prince Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein visited Sri Lanka in February 2016. That was when Maithripala Sirisena was President.

However, officials were quick to point out that any such visit, even if it does eventuate, would be after the ongoing sessions of the UNHRC. As such, it is unlikely to have any impact on the current Resolution before the UNHRC where Sri Lanka would require all the diplomatic support it can muster.

With these developments emerging in the corridors of power both in Colombo and in Geneva, the next days will see hectic diplomacy being conducted. The government is likely to go on the offensive, maintaining its stance that its actions in ending the Eelam war have brought peace to Sri Lanka.

Sri Lanka's detractors consist mostly of the LTTE's rump and, unfortunately, a group of nations that cater to their interests perhaps to seek electoral favours from large numbers of voters in those countries to whom they are beholden. However, Sri Lanka has insisted it will oppose the Resolution.

The next stage would be to assess the aftermath. Even if a resolution unfavourable to Sri Lanka is endorsed by the UNHRC, the real implications are unlikely to be daunting in comparison to setting in motion a chain of events that questions the country's actions in winning the Eelam War.

Colombo has noted that the conduct of the UNHRC has not been impartial in the events leading up to the resolution and the Government has raised at least two instances where the Council appears to be blatantly acting at the behest of certain countries, ignoring Sri Lanka's requests for impartiality. For instance, the Government of Sri Lanka responded to Commissioner Bachelet's report with a detailed, 30-page rebuttal titled "Observations of the Government of Sri Lanka on the Report of the OHCHR on Sri Lanka" highlighting the ambivalence of the claims in the Commissioner's Report.



Pakistani Prime Minister
Imran Khan



UN Human Rights Commissioner
Michelle Bachelet



Foreign Minister
Dinesh Gunawardena



Former Foreign Minister
Lakshman Kadirgamar



Sri Lanka's Permanent Representative at the
United Nations in Geneva, **C. A. Chandraprema**



A UNHRC session.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Vaccines are safe, effective, and lifesaving.
- Alex Azar

UN jobs: Heavily tilted towards the Big Powers



UN Headquarters in New York

Minister Boris Johnson, the UN Association of UK has urged him “to champion a transparent, inclusive and merit-based appointment process for the UN’s Emergency Relief Coordinator (ERC)”.

Over the past decade 20% of roles at Under-Secretary-General or above have gone to nationals of the Permanent Members – nearly 10 times higher than is proportional, said the letter signed by over 52 signatories, including former senior UN officials, members of the House of Lords, academics and representatives of non-governmental organisations (NGOs).

Secretary-General’s independence

“Ringfencing” roles excludes a large swathe of global talent and creates a perception of partiality, which can undermine the appointee’s authority and compromise the Secretary-General’s independence, the letter added.

Meanwhile, since 1997, the post of USG for Peacekeeping Operations has been monopolized by France with five French nationals succeeding each other: Bernard Miyet, Jean-Marie Guenheno, Alain Le Roy, Herve Ladsous and Jean-Pierre Lacroix.

And since 2007, the US has held the position of Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs: Lyn Pascoe, Jeffrey Feltman and Rosemary DiCarlo.

Not surprisingly, another permanent member of the Security Council, the then Soviet Union clung to that position no less than 13 times since 1952 when the post was designated USG for Political and Security Council Affairs.

Arpad Bogsch, a U.S. national of Hungarian origin, held the post of Director General of the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) in Geneva for an all-time record: 24 years (1973-1997).

Still, the United States, the largest single donor, continues to unreservedly hold the unique monopoly of nominating its own national as the head of the U.N. children’s agency, UNICEF, since its inception in 1947.

The seven U.S. nationals who have uninterrupted headed that agency include Maurice Pate, Henry Labouisse, James Grant, Carol Bellamy, Ann Veneman, Anthony Lake and Henrietta Fore.

No other agency at the United Nations has had a stranglehold on such a senior position in the history of the organisation.

The independence of the Secretary-General is a longstanding myth perpetuated mostly outside the United Nations. As an international civil servant, he is expected to shed his political loyalties when he takes office, and more importantly, never seek or receive instructions from any governments.

But virtually every single Secretary-General—nine at last count—has played second fiddle to the world’s major powers in violation of Article 100 of the UN Charter.

Over the last few decades, successive Secretaries-Generals have played ball, particularly with the Big Five – caving into their demands – in order to avoid a veto, particularly when their re-election comes up before the Security Council.

The current SG Antonio Guterres of Portugal has declared his intention to run for a second term in office, beginning 2022. But he has to placate the big Five or curry favour with them – whichever comes first – in order to avoid a veto.

Boutros Boutros-Ghali of Egypt never got a second term because he was vetoed by the US—even though 14 of the 15 members of the Security Council voted in his favour.

When he took office in January 1992, Boutros-Ghali noted that 50 percent of the staff assigned to the U.N.’s administration and management were U.S. nationals, although Washington paid only 25 percent of the U.N.’s regular budget.

Thomas G. Weiss, Distinguished Fellow, Global Governance, the Chicago Council on Global Affairs, told IPS the Secretary-General “gave away the store as part of his campaign in 2016. His re-election effort will follow the same path. The electoral college has five members”.

Competence has occasionally been a qualification for the Emergency Relief Coordinator (ERC), but not always. Nationality and the SG’s electoral promises and chits, however, are always the primary consideration, said Weiss, Presidential Professor of Political Science, Director Emeritus, Ralph Bunche Institute for International Studies at the CUNY Graduate Centre.

Ramesh Thakur, Emeritus Professor, Senior Research Fellow, Toda Peace Institute, Crawford School of Public Policy at the Australian National University, told IPS the basic problem is the General Assembly (GA) has deferred too many times, for too long, and on too many issues to the UN Security Council (UNSC) and the five permanent members (P-5) of the UNSC.

It is past time for the GA to assert itself, use the power of the purse, and use its universal membership against the self-serving narrow clique of the P-5 dominated UNSC, he pointed out.

“The UN’s unique legitimacy flows from its universal membership, which means the GA, not the UNSC. I would like the GA to adopt a formal censure of the SG for violating the 1992 GA resolution,” he argued.

And then follow it up by mandat-



UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres



Former UN Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali who served only one term.



Group of 77 is a body represented mostly by developing nations.

ing the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (or its successor if that has changed since my days) to require the annual report on the distribution of senior posts – Assistant Secretaries-Generals (ASGs), SG, and all special envoys and representatives at that rank – by the UN’s regional groupings, said Thakur, a former UN Assistant Secretary-General and Senior Vice-Rector at the UN University.

And where someone has dual nationalities, this should be reflected in the report, to stop someone who is both a US and an African country national, for example, from claiming 100% representation of that African country. Make that 50% US and 50% second nationality. And equivalent for all countries, noted Thakur.

“In other words, the primary blame for this continued racist domination lies not with the SG, not with the UNSC, but with the GA and its failure to impose standards and accountability,” he declared.

Joseph Chamie, an independent consulting demographer and a for-

mer director of the UN Population Division, told IPS while it is understandable that P5 members may wish to maintain their disproportionate advantages, and in some cases, monopoly with respect to USG and higher UN appointments, the world has changed markedly over the past 75 years and appointments at those high levels need to take those changes fully into account.

Simply in terms of demographics, he argued, the P5 members represent substantially less of the world than in the past. In 1950 the P5 countries represented 36 percent of the world’s population; today they represent 26 percent.

In addition, he said, the educational levels, career experiences and professional dedication of men and women in developing countries have also increased markedly over the past seven decades and in most instances are comparable to those in developed countries.

“It should be obvious to any impartial observer of the repeated breaches of the 1992 General Assembly resolution concerning no national of a Member State should succeed a national of that state in a senior post,” he said.

While it is important to have gender equality at high levels of the UN, it is also important to avoid “ringfencing” roles and posts, which contributes to undermining the credibility, effectiveness and support of the United Nations system, said Chamie.

Future appointments

The Secretary-General’s decisions on future appointments to high level positions in the Organisation, he said, would benefit greatly from being transparent, inclusive and merit-based.

Mandeep S. Tiwana, Chief Programmes Officer at CIVICUS, who was one of the signatories to the letter addressed to the British Prime Minister, told IPS a key factor holding the UN back from achieving the aims of the UN Charter is the assertion of narrowly defined geo-political interests by the big powers.

“If anything, the pandemic has taught us, it’s the need to invest in people centred multilateralism to meet the demands of the 21st century”.

He said “it could be a beautiful thing if senior UN appointments reflected the diversity of member states while demonstrating a strong commitment to core UN values.”

Hard-nosed assertion of raw power by the P5 without consistent fidelity to international norms has caused much suffering in the world, declared Tiwana.

The writer is the author of the newly-released book on the United Nations titled “No Comment – And Don’t Quote me on That” – From the Sublime to the Hilarious. The book is available on amazon: <https://www.rodericgrigson.com/no-comment-by-thalif-deen/>

- IPS

THALIF DEEN

The United Nations has continued to pursue a notoriously longstanding tradition of doing out some of the highest-ranking jobs either to the five big powers, who are permanent members of the Security Council—namely the US, UK, China, France and Russia – or to Western industrialized nations such as Spain, Italy, Canada, Sweden, Germany, plus Japan.

As a result, the world’s developing countries, comprising over two-thirds of the 193 UN member states, have been complaining they are not being adequately represented in the higher echelons of the world body – despite competent candidates with strong professional and academic qualifications vying for these jobs.

geographic representation in the UN Secretariat are a major concern.”

And, worse still, some of the big powers lobby the Secretary-General recommending their own nationals to succeed to the same post – and, at times, in consecutive years – implicitly claiming that some of the senior positions in the UN hierarchy are their political birthrights.

With Mark Lowcock’s decision to step down as Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator (ERC) last week, there is a guessing game as to which big power or which Western nation will get that job.

Lowcock is a British national and there are widespread rumours that UK has already recommended a Briton as his successor.

Since 2007, British nationals have held that post for four consecutive terms: John Holmes, Valerie Amos, Stephen O’Brien and Mark Lowcock.

Is there a fifth Briton in line for that position?

In an “open letter” to British Prime

Russia: Sputnik V gains ground around the world

KESTER KENN KLOMEHAG

Russia faces vaccine production challenges to meet the increasing market demand and to make prompt delivery on its current pledges to external countries. As vaccine production and distribution intensifies, rivalry and competition strengthen and the fight for market share and associated disinformation abound worldwide.

Russian President Vladimir Putin has repeatedly indicated that in order to boost sustainable supplies, the country has to build its domestic production capacity while, at the same time, searching for production partnership in foreign countries.

During a meeting with participants in the nationwide mutual assistance campaign *We Are Together* on March 4 in the Kremlin, Putin stated that “we still have many problems to deal with, but the fact is we have managed to overcome the challenges at hand far more effectively than many other countries with fairly well-developed healthcare systems.”

COVID-19 pandemic

According to experts, it would be impossible to cope with the national and global COVID-19 pandemic without them. Indeed, we have every reason to be proud because our vaccines are the safest and most effective in the world.

Russia’s Sputnik V has been registered in some 45 countries. “We have developed the second and third vaccines. And the medicines are very good and meet world standards and levels. Avifavir and some others are

rather expensive, but everything is issued free of charge,” he stressed.

“Some matters are not linked with production, although I have repeatedly noted this publicly. There is nothing to be ashamed of, and we need to expand production volumes. We simply never had the required amount of equipment for manufacturing vaccines in such huge volumes. We are expanding production, and we will continue to do so, we will manufacture the vaccines. Production has already been launched outside the Russian Federation, that is, at idle facilities that are available there,” he said.

In his wide-ranging annual media conference held on December 17, Putin explained that as the pandemic spreads, millions of coronavirus vaccine doses would have been produced. “Production of vaccine requires relevant plants, enterprises, and hardware—all that will be scaled up,” he said.

With regard to cooperation with other countries, it will boost the technological capabilities of enterprises to produce the vaccine. Foreign countries will invest their own money into expanding their production capacities and purchasing the corresponding equipment.

Technological capacities

“As for cooperation with foreign countries: nothing is stopping us from manufacturing vaccine components at facilities in other countries precisely because we need time to enhance the technological capacities of our vaccine manufacturing enterprises. This does not hinder vaccination in the Russian Federation,” he informed.

“Russia is sending the Sputnik V



Russian President Vladimir Putin has repeatedly indicated that in order to boost sustainable supplies, the country has to build its domestic production capacity while, at the same time, searching for production partnership in foreign countries.

vaccine abroad despite a deficit of the serum inside the country in order to occupy a leading place in the battle for the pharmaceutical market,” according to Ilya Grashenkov, head of the Centre for Regional Development (ura.news/news/1052475760).

Russian officials have long acknowledged that the Russian pharmaceutical industry lacks the capacity to produce enough vaccine even for domestic use and has sought with some success to get companies abroad to produce it under license. In the current

competitive trend, there are other vaccines such as Oxford/AstraZeneca, Johnson & Johnson and Moderna that have equally become popular in the world. China has approved four vaccines developed by three Chinese companies for general use.

AstraZeneca is a very good company whose vaccine is 61 per cent effective, and our vaccine has an efficiency of 91.6 per cent. Pfizer is being used, about 16 people died in Switzerland following vaccination. Some European countries have stopped administering Pfizer vaccines, due to fatalities.

Vaccine companies

Pfizer is a global company with a remarkable scientific research base. As well-known, India is home to one of the world’s largest vaccine manufacturers, the Serum Institute of India, as well as other vaccine companies producing candidates.

Russia works with AstraZeneca after signing a partnership agreement. They proposed a joint project with the Gamaleya Institute to develop a joint product and improve the level of production ensured by their vaccine.



“Only by combining efforts, I am saying this for the second time at this meeting, can we achieve the desired result around the globe. The result we need is of a truly global nature, a global result,” Putin explained with high optimism.

World Health Organisation’s representative to Russia, Melita Vujanovic, has said that the coronavirus situation in Russia has been improving, noting further that the “vaccination situation looks optimistic,” especially given the fact that there are three registered vaccines. According to the data from Russia’s Anti-Crisis Centre, there are currently 302,281 active coronavirus cases in Russia.

World Health Organisation (WHO) has declared the coronavirus outbreak a pandemic since March 2020. Since then, nearly 120 million cases have now been reported to this organisation, and more than 2.6 million people have lost their lives.

(Kester Kenn Klomehag is a frequent and passionate contributor to IDN. During his professional career as a researcher specialising in Russia-Africa policy, which spans nearly two decades, he has been detained and questioned several times by security services for reporting facts)

- IDN-InDepthNews

ASTRAZENECA JAB: EU regulator 'firmly convinced' benefits outweigh risks

THE NETHERLANDS:

The EU's medicines regulator said Tuesday it was "firmly convinced" the benefits of AstraZeneca's vaccine outweigh potential risks, insisting there was no evidence linking it to blood clots after several nations suspended the shot over health fears.

The suspensions have provoked intense debate over whether it was prudent to put AstraZeneca inoculations on hold just as vaccination campaigns were beginning to gather pace.

Experts at both the World Health Organization and the European Medicines Agency (EMA) met Tuesday to discuss the vaccine, with the European organisation expected to publish conclusions Thursday.

While millions of doses of the vaccine developed with Oxford University have been administered, small numbers of people have developed blood clots, prompting countries including the EU's three largest nations – Germany, France



European Medicines Agency (EMA) Executive Director Emer Cooke

and Italy – to suspend injections. The EMA insisted that countries should continue

using the vaccine. "We are still firmly convinced that the benefits of the AstraZeneca vac-

cine in preventing COVID-19 with its associated risk of hospitalisation and death outweigh the risk of these side effects," EMA chief Emer Cooke said Tuesday. More than 382 million doses of vaccine have been administered globally, the vast majority in wealthier countries while many poorer nations have yet to receive a single jab.

AstraZeneca's shot, among the cheapest available, was billed as the vaccine of choice for poorer nations and the clot reports have had an impact beyond Europe.

Countries that have halted or delayed the rollout range from Indonesia and Venezuela to Sweden and the Netherlands.

But Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau urged his citizens to get the AstraZeneca shot. And Thai Prime Minister Prayut Chan-O-Cha was himself injected as his country lifted its own AstraZeneca suspension. "I am an example today," he said.

- AFP

Biden tells migrants: 'Don't come'

US: US President Joe Biden urged migrants not to come to the United States on Tuesday, as criticism mounted over a surge in people arriving at the southern border with Mexico – including thousands of unaccompanied children.

"Yes I can say quite clearly don't come over... Don't leave your town or city or community," he said in an interview with ABC News, addressing the migrants.

Speaking hours after his head of homeland security defended the administration's immigration policies, Biden also shrugged off claims that his dismantling of former president Donald Trump's tough stance had encouraged the surge, pointing out that there had been similar surges in 2019 and 2020.

"The idea that Joe Biden said 'come' - I heard the other day that they're coming because I'm a nice guy... Here's the deal, they're not," he said.

On January 20, his first day in office, Biden scrapped several of Donald Trump's contentious immigration policies, including halting new construction of a border wall and



lawmakers and accused Biden of creating a "crisis."

Biden's Chief of Homeland Security Alejandro Mayorkas on Tuesday also defended the administration's immigration policies.

Mayorkas acknowledged the United States was "on pace" to encounter more migrants at the border than at any time in two decades, but said such spikes were "not new," having also occurred in 2019, 2014 and earlier.

"The situation we are currently facing at the southwest border is a difficult one," Mayorkas said in a statement. "We are keeping our borders secure, enforcing our laws, and staying true to our values and principles."

- AFP

proposing legislation to create a citizenship pathway for the nearly 11 million people living illegally in the US.

Republican critics say Biden's policies caused a sharp increase in migrants seeking to cross into the US illegally.

The president spoke a day after after top Republican congressman Kevin McCarthy visited the border in Texas with fellow Republican

Yangon residents flee martial law district



People flee the Hlaing Tharyar township in Yangon on Tuesday as Myanmar's Security Forces continue a crackdown on protests in the area against the military coup. - AFP

MYANMAR:

Residents of a protest flashpoint district in Myanmar's biggest city fled on flatbed trucks and tuk-tuks Tuesday after security forces escalated the use of lethal force against anti-coup protesters, despite international appeals for restraint.

Much of the country has been in uproar since the military ousted civilian leader Aung San Suu Kyi last month, with hundreds of thousands taking to the streets to demand a return to democracy.

Police and soldiers have used tear gas, rubber bullets and live rounds to subdue crowds in near-daily crackdowns, along with blanket nightly internet shutdowns to stop protesters from mobilising.

By Tuesday morning, local media outlet The Irrawaddy published photos of residents fleeing the township, crowding onto flatbed trucks stuck in columns of snaking traffic.

Some carried their pets on the back of motorbikes, while others crammed their

belongings in vinyl bags on tuk-tuks.

"We can see the people on the roads for as far as one's eye can see," reported local outlet Democratic Voice of Burma.

A resident confirmed the mass exodus to AFP, saying that people wanted to leave at dawn and protesters removed makeshift barricades – erected to slow security forces down – to let them out.

More than 180 people have been killed since the coup, according to the AAPP. - AFP

EIGHT KILLED in U.S. spa shootings



Robert Aaron Long, the suspect arrested in connection with the shootings at three different spas in the US state of Georgia on Tuesday. - AFP

US: Eight people, most of them Asian women, were killed in shootings at three different spas in the US state of Georgia Tuesday, with a 21-year-old white man in custody on suspicion of staging all three attacks, police said.

The shootings came with many Asian-Americans already on edge following a recent spike in hate crimes against the community, and triggered immediate fears that Asian-run businesses may have been deliberately targeted.

Four of the victims were killed at Young's Asian Massage near Acworth, a suburb of Georgia's capital city Atlanta, the Atlanta Jour-

nal-Constitution reported.

Captain Jay Baker of the Cherokee County sheriff's office told the paper the victims were two Asian women, a white woman, and a white man, while a Hispanic man was wounded.

The Atlanta police department separately confirmed that four women were found dead at two business establishments in northeast Atlanta.

Police told the Atlanta Journal-Constitution that all four Atlanta victims were Asian women.

Authorities have identified Robert Aaron Long as a suspect in all three shootings. - AFP

Five women, child killed in Afghan bus bombing

AFGHANISTAN: Five women and a child were killed when a bus carrying Afghan government employees was hit by a bomb in the capital, officials said Tuesday.

The blast ripped through the vehicle during evening rush hour in Kabul on Monday, with government ministries giving conflicting casualty figures.

"Unfortunately, five women were killed and 17 wounded in yesterday's attack," Nasratullah Naseri, a spokesman for the tel-

ecomms ministry, told AFP, adding that the blast was possibly caused by a "sticky bomb" attached to the side of the bus where women were sat.

The education ministry said three women and a child were killed, while police said five people died.

Civil servants who are mothers often travel to work with their young children, dropping them off at government-run creches.

No one has claimed responsibility for Monday's blast, and there was no comment from the Taliban. On Tuesday, gunmen with heavy arms attacked a bus carrying students and teachers of Baghlan University in northern Afghanistan.

"A student and the driver were killed, and six teachers were wounded," Abdul Qadir Mahan, dean of Baghlan University, told AFP.

Two blasts ripped through vehicles in Kabul on Sunday, killing three and wounding more

than a dozen, police said. Violence has surged in Afghanistan in recent months – including a wave of assassinations against

journalists, activists and civil servants – despite peace talks between the Afghan government and Taliban. - AFP



Afghan Security Forces personnel inspecting the wreckage of the bus.

journalists, activists and civil servants – despite peace talks between the Afghan government and Taliban. - AFP

journalists, activists and civil servants – despite peace talks between the Afghan government and Taliban. - AFP

Trump encourages supporters get COVID-19 jab

US: Former President Donald Trump on Tuesday encouraged his Republican supporters – one of the main groups resistant to COVID-19 vaccines – to get their shots.

"I would recommend it," Trump said during an interview on Fox News. "I would recommend it to a lot of people that don't want to get it and a lot of those people voted for me, frankly," he said.

"It's a great vaccine, it's a safe vaccine and it's something that works."

This was Trump's most explicit endorsement for the national mass vaccination campaign since he left office in January.

All other living former Presidents, including Democrat Barack Obama and Republican George W. Bush, have delivered high profile public service announcements.

But Trump has largely been silent while the man who defeated him, President Joe Biden, masterminds the vaccine rollout.

Polls show that Republican men, who are overwhelmingly supporters of Trump and his "Make America Great Again" or MAGA platform, are the leading vaccine skeptics.

Meanwhile, Trump remained non-committal about seeking to recapture the Presidency following his one term in office.

"Based on every poll, they want me to run



Donald Trump

again," he said. "But we're going to take a look and we'll see."

Trump spoke a day after the White House suggested he shouldn't be waiting for an "engraved invitation" to join the public campaign encouraging Americans to take COVID-19 vaccines.

"Every other living President... has participated in public campaigns. They did not need an engraved invitation to do so. So he may decide he should do that. If so, great," Biden's Press Secretary, Jen Psaki said.

- AFP

Man charged with threatening to kill Biden, top Democrats

US: The Michigan state Attorney General on Tuesday charged a US man with crimes for threatening to kill President Joe Biden, top House Democrat Nancy Pelosi and Gretchen Whitmer, the state's Democratic Governor.

In January Joshua Doctor, 21, allegedly posted "multiple threatening comments" on the iFunny social media platform, Attorney General Dana Nessel said in a statement.

In those posts Doctor said he would use a gun to shoot and kill the elected officials, which he claimed would be "the catalyst" for a new American revolution.

The statement also said Doctor's smart phone had information on how to make a bomb and where to find the necessary material.

Doctor, who turned himself in on Tuesday, is charged with threatening an act of terrorism and using a computer to commit a crime, both felonies carrying potential sentences of 20 years.

His first appearance before a judge is scheduled for April 8.

The US Government in late January



President Joe Biden, Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer and Speaker Nancy Pelosi

issued an anti-terrorism alert focused for the first time on the threat posed by "extremists" to Biden's Presidency. In October 2020, Governor Whitmer was the target of a small

far-right group that planned to abduct her, angry at her coronavirus lockdown measures.

- AFP

The old ribbon typewriter battles for life at Hulftsdorp



DISHAN JOSEPH

Today we live in a digitally dominated era. Our communication has rapidly grown to depend on iPhones, tablets, 4G technology and a myriad of social media platforms. People do not write or receive letters anymore, in the true sense of handwritten letters.

Birthday cards often take the form of e-cards. The vibrant city of Colombo has undergone a tremendous and beautiful change. The old colonial buildings have been subdued by stunning high-rise towers. I have not seen a red double-decker bus in a long time. Perhaps one of the refreshing sights in Colombo is the presence of the smart mounted police officers, riding their horses with that dignified colonial charm. At the same time, the machines that once produced thousands of documents and letters - the typewriters have been relegated to the status of vintage antiques. This newspaper, the *Daily News* with a magnificent history of over 100 years, also relied on typewriters for all editorial contents before the desktop computers changed the way we operate. Until the middle of 2020, there were three legal typist clerks still using the typewriter near the vicinity of the esteemed Supreme Courts at Hulftsdorp, Colombo-12. These two men and one lady had been here for decades patiently typing letters for people who would come to courts.

These souls have been vanquished with the arrival of modern technology. With the advent of computers, the once-dominant typewriter has been relegated to an antique in the administrative realms of Sri Lanka although it is still found in some government departments. As a schoolboy, I have seen old men attired in neat white shirts, seated in the shadow of the magnificent All Saints' Church, resting against wooden tables on which stood their precious typewriters. Their fingers moved with efficiency and the gentle clatter of the typewriter resonated as the keys pressed against the ribbon printing black on white. Except for rainy days, these obliging typists attended to many customers. It must have taken a lot of people skills to deal with all sorts of people who came seeking legal redress, displaying many moods. The last time I walked towards the Anglican Church and courthouse was a few weeks before the COVID-19 pandemic suddenly affected our otherwise happy lives. The pavement where they sat and typed was empty. I noticed a large blue carbon stain on the cream coloured wall, the only evidence that they had once been here. Passing the courts complex, I ventured in search of these typists. Modern internet cafes with digital typing and printing services were often found with dazzling neon signboards.

After a few minutes, I was surprised to hear the once-familiar clatter of the manual typewriter. Its sound guided me towards the large Bo tree roundabout. A man wearing black-rimmed spectacles was typing steadily with zest. I stood silently until he finished. He looked up assuming I wanted an affidavit. K. Jayasiri who is an amiable man explained, "I am 78 years old, son. I am from Dodanduwa. After I left school I was advised to learn typing which I did in 1958. However, later, I found a job in the Ceylon Transport Board (CTB) head office. After I retired from the CTB, I came here with my typewriter, and have been here for almost 20 years. I begin work by 8.30 am and leave at 3.30 pm. There were many seniors here in the past, but the computer has uprooted them out of the system." He then placed both hands on the old typewriter fondly and continued, "I can do this maybe for another two years. Who can predict the future?"

The sun spread her rays to dominate the Hulftsdorp area. After walking for about 10 minutes, the second typist was spotted, seated in the verandah of a legal office. I stepped in and introduced myself. The old gentleman behind the desk asked if I wanted to meet a lawyer, and then relaxed when I told him I am from the media. At 70 plus years, G. Rajah is a man with lots of vitality,



enriched by a sense of humour. He said, "I travel to Hulftsdorp from Modara. I am a retired employee and have been doing this for the last 12 years. As you know, there were many others who did this work before us. The city has changed so much. Today everyone uses the computer. But some still continue to come to us. We have the advantage of knowing the English language and type with accuracy." He continued, "We charge Rs. 500 for a deed. If it is typed on the computer they charge Rs. 1,000. It is a matter of choice for the customer."

As I continued my search for these clerical relics, I found the senior-most lady typist in this area. Seated beside a large photocopy machine, a lady attired in saree was inserting an A4 sheet into the typewriter. She was unaware of my intrusion. Mildly surprised she looked up and said, "I type in Sinhalese, how can I help you, sir?" Premalatha has been at Hulftsdorp for 30 years. She happily reminisced, "Back then we were very much in demand

from both civilians and lawyers. People would wait patiently until we filled up the documents. We used to charge Rs. 20 or Rs. 30 per page. We had good business then, but times have changed. I myself realized the need to stay with the current trend and learnt to operate the computer two years ago. So now I can use both, the typewriter and the computer," she said with an air of accomplishment. Premalatha is close to 60

As a schoolboy, I have seen old men attired in neat white shirts, seated in the shadow of the magnificent All Saints' Church, resting against wooden tables on which stood their precious typewriters. Their fingers moved with efficiency and the gentle clatter of the typewriter resonated as the keys pressed against the ribbon printing black on white. Except for rainy days, these obliging typists attended to many customers. It must have taken a lot of people skills to deal with all sorts of people who came seeking legal redress, displaying many moods

senior man. You must talk to him." Thanking the man, I found my way down an alley lined with legal offices and sworn translators. I was shown an empty wooden desk and stool. After nearly 30 minutes, a bearded gentleman looking more like a sage walked in and eyed me with profound suspicion, his gaze piercing the thick spectacle lenses. He evaded direct eye contact. The vintage citizen smiled, "I am just coming from Mawanella. I am tired. I am going to have my tea." With this short introduction, uttered with the speed of typewriter he waved and vanished into the crowded pavement. I patiently waited for this old typist, but I think he willfully avoided me and was not to be seen. These human beings have dedicated years typing for thousands of customers at Hulftsdorp.

They have made a silent contribution in the dispensation of legal redress. The consistent clatter of the Remington, Adler, Imperial, Royal and Olympia typewriters at Colombo-12 has faded into the sunset. The trustworthy typewriters will sit and gather dust. They were the beautiful machines that once empowered the administrative apparatus of Ceylon.

ADA KOTIPATHI - Thursday
Draw No: 1225 Colour: Dark Blue
Date: 16.03.2021
Today's Jackpot
Rs. 118,622,595/-
Winning tickets are valid for 6 months.
Development Lotteries Board
356, Dr. Colvin R. De Silva Mawatha, Union Place, Colombo 02
Tel: 0112 333 3467 Fax: 0112 333 3467
Hotline: 0114 824 824, 0112 333 778

Super Jackpot
Date: 16-03-2021 Draw Number: 3105 Colour: Red
Rs. 3,318,329.60
Winning Numbers: 22 29 31 62
Virgo
TOTAL VALUE OF PRIZES
Rs. 11,160,800/-
Development Lotteries Board
356, Dr. Colvin R. De Silva Mawatha, Union Place, Colombo 02
Tel: 0112 333 3467 Fax: 0112 333 3467
Hotline: 0114 824 824, 0112 333 778 or 1919
SMS: 06.8.020000-L07-000000-00 & send to 99
For Interactive Voice Response Service - Call 011 825 825

TUESDAY
Date: 16.03.2021 Draw No.: 1224 Colour: LIGHT BLUE
Total Value of Prizes
Rs. 5,525,460/-
Winning Numbers: 12 41 45 54
English Letter: I
Winning tickets are valid only for six months
Development Lotteries Board
356, Dr. Colvin R. De Silva Mawatha, Union Place, Colombo 02
Tel: 0112 333 3467 Fax: 0112 333 3467
Hotline: 0114 824 824, 0112 333 778 or 1919
SMS: 06.8.020000-L07-000000-00 & send to 99
For Interactive Voice Response Service - Call 011 825 825

English Letter & Winning Numbers
Draw No: 703 Colour: PINK
Date: 16.03.2021 Tuesday
M 20 42 71 73
Total Value of Prizes
Rs. 3,181,080/-
Next Super Jackpot
Rs. 77,706,340/-
Yellow, Pink and Green coloured tickets are valid on Sundays, Tuesdays and Fridays respectively. Winning tickets are valid for 6 months.
Development Lotteries Board
356, Dr. Colvin R. De Silva Mawatha, Union Place, Colombo 02
Tel: 0112 333 3467 Fax: 0112 333 3467
Hotline: 0114 824 824, 0112 333 778 or 1919
SMS: 06.8.020000-L07-000000-00 & send to 99
For Interactive Voice Response Service - Call 011 825 825

TUESDAY
Date: 16.03.2021 Draw No.: 3554 Colour: LIGHT BLUE
Total Value of Prizes
Rs. 6,021,700/-
Winning Numbers: 32 48 50 74
English Letter: A
Winning tickets are valid only for six months
Development Lotteries Board
356, Dr. Colvin R. De Silva Mawatha, Union Place, Colombo 02
Tel: 0112 333 3467 Fax: 0112 333 3467
Hotline: 0114 824 824, 0112 333 778 or 1919
SMS: 06.8.020000-L07-000000-00 & send to 99
For Interactive Voice Response Service - Call 011 825 825

SUPER BALL
Draw Number: 1398 Colour: Light Blue
Draw Date: 16.03.2021 Date: Tuesday
Winning English Letter and Numbers
B 42 49 67 70
Total Value of Prizes
Rs. 4,629,840/-
The winning tickets will be valid for 6 months.
Development Lotteries Board
356, Dr. Colvin R. De Silva Mawatha, Union Place, Colombo 02
Tel: 0112 333 3467 Fax: 0112 333 3467
Hotline: 0114 824 824, 0112 333 778 or 1919
SMS: 06.8.020000-L07-000000-00 & send to 99
For Interactive Voice Response Service - Call 011 825 825

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Team New Zealand stamp dominance with fourth America's Cup win

AUCKLAND, WEDNESDAY: Team New Zealand beat Italy's Luna Rossa 7-3 to win their fourth America's Cup Wednesday and retain the world's oldest international sporting trophy in front of huge crowds in Auckland.

The defending champions claimed the single win they needed to seal the prestigious, best-of-13 yachting series with a 46-second victory in race 10 on Auckland's Waitemata Harbour.

New Zealand claimed the 'Auld Mug' trophy once again to confirm their dominance in the competition, which dates back to 1851.

"It's absolutely unreal... it just means the world to us as a team," Team New Zealand helmsman Peter Burling said.

Team New Zealand entered the regatta as heavy favourites

but the Italians matched them in the early stages, taking the scores to 3-2.

But the hosts then reeled off five successive wins, helped by their superior speed and local knowledge as Auckland produced days of light, inconsistent winds.

The New Zealanders had been poised to land the killer blow on Tuesday but the champagne was put on ice when a late wind shift meant race 10 was held over until Wednesday.

The delay built anticipation in Auckland, where tens of thousands gathered from early morning to cheer on their team, creating a party atmosphere in a city which only emerged from a Covid-19 lockdown 11 days ago.

The win underlines Team New Zealand's status as the pre-



Team New Zealand's skipper Peter Burling (C) holds the America's Cup, affectionately known as the Auld Mug, after winning the 36th America's Cup against Luna Rossa Prada in Auckland on March 17. AFP

eminent force in the modern era of the America's Cup, winning in 1995, 2000, 2017 and 2021. They were also runners-up in 2003, 2007 and 2013. For Luna Rossa, there was more disappointment in their sixth campaign, forced to settle for a run-

ner-up medal to match the one they earned in 2000.

"It's not finished," co-helmsman Francesco Bruni said. "I'm sure (Luna Rossa) will try again. I'm very happy with how this team has been run. Thank you Italia."

The Italians far exceeded pre-match expectations, when some pundits predicted a 7-0 Kiwi sweep, and they would have run Team New Zealand even closer without a few tactical errors at clutch moments.

Luna Rossa co-helmsman Jimmy Spithill said Team New Zealand "developed a fantastic package and are deserved champions".

"Obviously we will need to go have a beer with the Kiwis, really pay respect to those guys," he said.

"But I've got to thank all of our teammates who made such a huge amount of effort to allow us to get out here and fight it out in the America's Cup."

Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern was quick to congratulate the Kiwi team.

"Team New Zealand has once again made us all so proud by retaining the America's Cup as New Zealand's cup," she said in a statement.

Ardern also looked ahead to New Zealand's next defence of the Cup, expected in 2024, saying the government would give the team NZ\$5.0 million (US\$3.6 million) to help retain key personnel and discourage rival syndicates from poaching them.

The focus will now turn to the future format of the Ameri-

ca's Cup. The Cup-holder gets to choose the venue and set the rules of the next regatta and Team New Zealand confirmed last month it would consider bids from overseas cities to host the event.

Wherever it is held, the next contest appears set to retain the 23-metre (75-foot) monohull boats, which fly above the water on carbon fibre foiling arms.

Team New Zealand skipper Glenn Ashby this week described the hi-tech vessels - which reach speeds exceeding 50 knots while balanced precariously on their foils - as "absolutely phenomenal" this week.

"They're a beautiful boat - beautiful-looking at rest and beautiful in anger as well," he said. AFP

SLC donates cricket gear to Jayasiripura School in Polonnaruwa

As part of the ongoing women's cricket development under the 'Cricket Gamata' program, Sri Lanka Cricket donated cricket equipment to Jayasiripura Primary School in Polonnaruwa.

The equipment consists of bats, batting helmets, gloves and other necessary items. Apart from the equipment, a matting wicket was also provided to the school.

The donation was handed over to the school recently at the Sri Lanka Cricket headquarters, with the participation of Apsari Tillakaratne, Convener of women's cricket at the SLC. Lt. Col. Manuja Kariapperuma, Consultant,

Women's Cricket Operations and Development at the SLC and Kamal Dharmasiri, Head of National Development Center of the SLC.

Janaka Priyanath, the cricket coach of the school accepted the donation. According to him, around 50 girls are currently taking part in cricket practices at the school. He also said, for the first time, the school will field a cricket team to play in the upcoming school cricket tournament. Apart from material support, Sri Lanka Cricket also offered a scholarship to the school coach Janaka Priyanath to follow the SLC's Level 1 Coaching Program.



Maurice Dela Zilwa, Schools Cricket Coordinator of SLC, Kamal Dharmasiri, Head of National Development Center of the SLC, Lt. Col. Manuja Kariapperuma, Consultant, Women's Cricket Operations and Development of the SLC, Apsari Tillakaratne, Convener of Women's Cricket of the SLC hand over the donation to Janaka Priyanath, the Cricket Coach of the Jayasiripura Primary School.

Seneth Malsara shines in karate

MORATUWA SPORTS SPECIAL CORR.

Karate Black Belt holder and athlete Seneth Malsara Rajapakse brought honour and fame to his Alma Mater Dhammissara National School Nattandiya. He was admitted to this school in 2012 when R. K. W. Gunasekera was at the helm of the school and his first class teacher was Mrs. Priyanthi. He participated at the inter house sports meet in running events under coach Danushka and continued for three years. Though he did athletics his forte was karate and his parents Chaminda Rajapakse and Anusha Fernando encouraged him to continue with karate. In 2015 he came under the school karate coaches Mr. Peter, Mr. Danuska and Mr. Branda and participated at the inter house Karate Meet

from 2016 to date. He came to the lime light when he won a gold medal at the All Island Kumite Championship and the same year he bagged a bronze medal at the Inter Schools Kata Meet. In the following year at the Karate National Championship he won a gold for Kumite and in Kata he came up to best eight. At the 27th North Western Province Karate Do Championship he won a gold for Kata and a silver for Kumite and at the 6th Puttalam District Championship he grabbed a gold for Kumite and a silver for Kata. In the same year at the Ghima International Karate Championship he won another gold for Kumite and in the first Champions Trophy Meet he won a gold for Kata. At the Shihan Tiki-moto Championship he won

gold for both Kumite and Kata and at the 28th North Western Province Meet in 2019 he got a gold for Kumite and a bronze for Kata.

At the Puttalam District meet he won golds for Kumite and Kata and at the Gattano Pisano Open International Championship he won golds for Kumite and Kata. At the 43rd Kumite Championship Seneth won a gold in Kumite and another gold in team event Kata.

In 2018 at the 11th International Gojuyyu Karate and Shotokan Kumite Open Championship he won a gold for Kumite and silver in Kata and in 2019 at Gihan Sukimoto Yuso Cup International Open Tournament he won a gold and in the Kemshe Karate Tournament 23rd Open Kumite Do Championship he won a gold. He also



Seneth Malsara Rajapakse

won a gold at the ISKU International Online Kata Championship for Kata. This year his parents admitted him to the ISKU Karate Academy to develop his skills and he came under instructor Sugath Kumara. His school principal Anil Pushpakumara, POG Keerthi Jayasekera, Mrs. Thilini Sajeevani, Charles Thilakarathne and Deputy Principal Nilmini Rodrigo are very supportive to him. During the span of four years Seneth has grabbed 27 medals including 20 golds, 3 silvers and 4 bronzes.

The final match of the Munchee National Volleyball Championship 2021 organized by the Sri Lanka Volleyball Federation was held at the National Youth Services Council Indoor Stadium, Maharagama on 13th March. The final match was between Bitulink volleyball team and CEB volleyball team. After a very tense match that went on for the full five sets, the CEB team was successful in recording an excellent win of 4-1.

CEB wins Munchee National Volleyball Championship 2021

Representing CEB, the team comprising Captain Deepthi Ramesh, Vice Captain Kasun Fernando, Lasantha Praneeth, A.W. Lakmal, B.A.C.

Hirushan, G.V. Prabhath Perera, Ruchira Sampath Jayathunga, K.B.S.D. Jayarathne, Shehan, Nishan, Obeysekera, Kulara and Sandun showed

its mettle by playing excellently. CEB Captain Deepthi Ramesh was awarded as the Best Dasher, Kasun Fernando as the Best Passer, lasantha Fernando as

the Best Defensive Player and A.W. Lakmal as the Best Lifter.

The award for the Most Valuable Player in the Munchee National Volleyball Championship 2021 was secured by B.A.C. Hirushan of the CEB team. Chaminda Jayarathne was the Team Coach and Sandun Wimalasena was the Assistant Coach. Chanka Amarasinghe was the Physiotherapist for the CEB team and H. Marambage was the Physical Training Instructor, A.U.G.B. Nelligahawathne was the Manager of the CEB team. Encouraging the CEB team, Minister of Power Dulles Alahapperuma and the Chairman of the Sri Lanka Volleyball Federation Deputy Speaker Ranjith Siyambalapatiya were present at the occasion. Chairman - CEB, Eng. Vijitha Herath, Vice Chairman Nalintha Ilangakoon, CEB, General Manager Eng. N.W. Kumudinie Herath, Eng. Rohan Senevirathne (Addl.Gen. Manager - DD 04), Former General Manager Eng. Keerthi Karunaratne, Vice Chairman of the CEB Sports Club, Eng. Senajith Dasanayake (Addl.Gen. Manager - AM), Eng. Noel Priyantha (Dep. General Manager - B & OS) and the General Secretary of the CEB Sports Club, Dayananda Wijeweera (Addl. Finance Manager - DD 01) were present to view the match.



Introducing CEB volleyball team to chief Guests



Receiving the Munchee National Volleyball Championship 2021 Challenge Cup from Minister of Power Dulles Alahapperuma and Chairman, Volleyball Federation Ranjith Siyambalapatiya



An exciting moment...



Victorious CEB volleyball team with chief guests and invitees - (Front row from left) Shehan, Nishan, Kasun (Vice Captain), Lahiru, Lakmal, Deepthi (Captain), Lakmal, Obeysekera, Kulara, Sandun (2nd Row from left) Sankha, Hirushan, Chanaka (Physiotherapist), Vidura, Asha (Asst. Secretary - CEB Sports Club), Minister Ranjith Siyambalapatiya, Minister Dulles Alahapperuma, Chaminda (Coach), Kanachana Jayarathne (Vice Chairman - Volleyball Federation), Eng. Vijitha Herath (Chairman), Eng. Keerthi Karunaratne (Former General Manager), Eng. N.W.K. Herath (General Manager - CEB), Rohan Senevirathne (Addl.Gen.Manager - DD 04), Senajith Dasanayake (Addl.Gen.Manager - Assets Management), Dayananda Wijeweera (Addl. Finance Manager - DD 01) and A.U.P.B Nelligahawatte (Manager).



CEB volleyball team celebrating victory

42nd Observer-SLT Mobitel School Cricketer of the Year

Mega Show to crown school cricket talent on April 20

DINESH WEERAWANSA

The local health authorities have given the green light to go ahead with the postponed 42nd Observer-SLT Mobitel School Cricketer of the Year mega awards ceremony on April 20.

The health authorities have given their approval to the Sunday Observer, together with the sponsors Sri Lanka Telecom Mobitel, to conduct event after the Sinhala and Tamil New Year which also marks the reopening of the schools for the second term.

The officials of the Sunday Observer and Sri Lanka Telecom Mobitel, together with the event organizers, met recently at the Lake House to finalize the date after.

Meanwhile, ex-ObsERVER Schoolboy Cricketer of the Year turned ICC Elite Panel umpire Kumara Dharmasena is set to complete a great milestone in his distinguished career, this time as an international umpire.

The former Sri Lanka Test all-rounder, who will celebrate his 50th birthday next month (on April 24), needs to stand in only six more matches as an ICC elite panel umpire to complete the rare milestone of 200 Internationals. So far, he has officiated in 67 Tests, 105 ODIs and 22 T20s to combine 194 internationals as an ICC elite panel umpire.

He will get a golden opportunity to extend this by two more Tests when Bangladesh tour here next month. In fact, Dharmasena will be umpiring the third day of the first Test against Bangladesh on his 50th birthday.

In his last interview with the Sunday Observer, Dharmasena said he was looking forward to that milestone as an international umpire. "I do not have too many future plans as we are getting older. I take it year by year. Everything came to a standstill last year due to the Covid-19 pandemic but now catching up slowly. The ICC recognizes my work and I am happy with it", he said.

After he retired from international cricket in November 2006, Dharmasena took to umpiring. Three years



after his retirement as a player, he made his international debut as an umpire in 2009, officiating in an ODI between India and Sri Lanka at Dambulla. Thus, Dharmasena became the youngest ever Sri Lankan to umpire in any form of international cricket.

He stood at the 2011 ICC World Cup and in the same year, he had the honour of being appointed to the ICC's Elite Panel of Umpires.

The greatest moment in his career as an international umpire came in 2012 when he was adjudged the ICC's Umpire of the Year to receive the David Shepherd Trophy.

Dharmasena achieved another first when he officiated at the 2015 ICC World Cup tournament as he was called up to umpire the final. Thus Dharmasena became the first person as both a player and umpire in an ICC World Cup final after he played a notable role in Sri Lanka's World Cup triumph as a member of Arjuna Ranatunga's invincible team of 1996.

According to Dharmasena, the Observer Schoolboy Cricketer of the Year title he won in 1989 inspired him to excel in the international arena. "That was one of the greatest moments in my cricket career. It was a big inspiration for me to win the Observer Schoolboy Cricketer of the Year title. It helped and encouraged me to work hard to win my Sri Lanka cap in next to no time," he said.

Dharmasena believes that winning a major award such as Observer Schoolboy Cricketer of the Year gives a great confidence for a schoolboy cricketer to go places. "It would definitely make young schoolboy cricketers more determined to reach the top. It gives tremendous confidence for any cricketer searching for success in the big league", he said.

Dharmasena feels that outstanding cricketers with exceptional performances and milestones are hard to find nowadays, compared to his era. He feels that could be the reason that has prevented schoolboy cricketers marching directly to the Sri Lanka team.

"In recent times we have not seen schoolboys directly marching to the national team, unlike our playing days," he said.

He is of the view that the present day challenge for schoolboy cricketers is greater in their future careers and as a result, only a few outstanding cricketers would remain in the game once they leave school.

"I was lucky to seek direct employment at Hattion National Bank (HNB) when I finished my school career at Nalanda. The HNB offered me employment and gave all the support to pursue my career as a club cricketer and then as an international cricketer. But present day schoolboy cricketers hardly get that sort of support", he added.

Born on April 24, 1971 in Colombo, Hadunnetige Deepthi Priyantha Kumara Dharmasena is one of the best all-rounders produced by Nalanda. He had four memorable First XI school seasons for the Campbell Place school.

Dharmasena narrowly missed the chance of becoming the first to win the Observer Schoolboy Cricketer for four successive years.

Apart from winning the prestigious title in 1989, he had been adjudged runner-up thrice to Sanjeeva Ranatunga of Ananda College in 1988, Marvan Atapattu also of Ananda College in 1990 and to Muttiah Muralitharan of St. Anthony's College, Katugastota in 1991. It was a proud record which is hard to shatter. Having ended his school career,



Observer Schoolboy Cricketer of the Year turned ICC Elite Panel umpire Kumara Dharmasena with his beloved wife Dushyanthi.

Dharmasena became a permanent member of Bloomfield Cricket and Athletic Club in the domestic inter-club Premier league season. Merely three years after winning the Observer Schoolboy Cricketer of the Year title, young Dharmasena made his Test debut in Sri Lanka's second Test against South Africa at the SSC ground in September, 1993.

He made his Sri Lanka ODI debut on August 24, 1994 in the fifth ODI against Pakistan at the Premadasa Stadium capturing 2 for 34 off nine overs. He has aggregated 868 runs in 31 Tests with three half centuries and captured 69 wickets with 6 for 72 as his best innings analysis. Dharmasena represented Sri Lanka in 141 ODIs, aggregating 1,222 runs with four half centuries.

Dharmasena has captured 138 wickets in ODIs with his off breaks, delivered with a slightly unorthodox action that had been a blessing to the Sri Lankan team in many ODIs.

He is better known for his inspiring acts as a team man, motivating his fel-

low players even at difficult times. Hence, he was nicknamed 'Unanduwa' by his teammates.

"If you don't enjoy the game and don't dedicate yourself towards it, you won't be successful. Believe in yourself, work hard with dedication and you will find success", was his advice to the emerging schoolboy cricketers who keep dreaming of a Sri Lanka cap.

Meanwhile, the much looked forward to key matches of the 2020/21 inter-school season are now on, followed by the Sri Lanka Schools Cricket Association (SLSCA) conducted one-day limited over tournament matches. Simultaneously, the contest for the 43rd Observer-Mobitel Most Popular School Cricketer titles would turn out to be a keen tussle.

Voting coupons for 2021 will soon be published in the Lake House national newspapers - Sunday Observer, Daily News, Dinamina and Thina-karan. The Observer-SLT Mobitel School Cricketer of the Year Mega Show is sponsored by SLT Mobitel. Meanwhile, the first ever Mustangs

trophy Royal-Thomian T20 limited over cricket encounter will be played at the Mahinda Rajapaksa International Cricket Stadium (MRICS) in Sooriyawewa, Hambantota on May 10.

Though the Royal-Thomian cricket history goes back to 1879, this will be the first time the two teams are meeting in a T20 day-night match commencing at 7 pm on May 10.

The Battle of the Blues three-day encounter between Royal and S. Thomas' will be played at the MRICS prior to the T20 game on May 6, 7 and 8.

The Observer-Mobitel School Cricketers of the Year 2021 will be launched shortly with the commencement of the inter-school matches from this week.

The Sri Lanka Schools Cricket Association (SLSCA) will confine its current tournament matches to one-day games. A team will get up to a maximum eight tournament matches including five in the qualifying round league. The final round matches will be from the quarter final knockout stage.

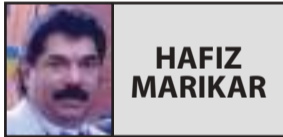
Chairman of Sri Lanka Telecom and SLT Mobitel, Rohan Fernando has always promoted sports activities in Sri Lanka and also given every possible assistance to the Mega Show which will march forward with more power and strength.

SLT Mobitel is sponsoring the show for the 14th successive year at a time when the company is heading towards new horizons under the dynamic leadership of Fernando, the former Thomian ace rower.

The management of Lake House has strongly backed the Mega Show.

Its Chairman, W. Dayaratne PC and the its Directors - Dharma Sri Kariyawasam (Editorial), Rakhitha Abeygunawardhana (Legal and Administration), Janaka Ranatunga (Finance) and Canishka Witharana (Operations) have always been a tower of strength to take the Observer-Mobitel School Cricketers of the Year forward.

Clifford Cup remains oldest club rugby tourney



HAFIZ MARIKAR

The country's oldest club rugby tournament is the Clifford Cup. Originally, the Clifford Cup, which was donated by Lady Clifford, wife of the then British Governor of Ceylon Sir Hugh Clifford, for a match on her birthday, August 26 1911 to be awarded to the winners of the game between All Ceylon and United Services Kandy. But the game took place a week after the donation of the cup, that was on September 2. The reason for overlooking the birthday request of the donor in the inaugural year was that the venue, Colombo Race Course was reserved for another sporting event.

After 15 years in 1926 the tournament was converted to a quadrangular with four teams, Low Country, Up Country, the Ceylonese and United Services fighting for supremacy. In the first outing United Services Kandy beat All Ceylon by 25 points to 0. In the following year 1912 on September 2 All Ceylon beat United Services Kandy by 8 points to nil. In 1913 Kandy United Services again beat All Ceylon 3-0.

1st World War

The Clifford Cup game was suspended during the 1st World War and not restarted until 1926, when the Ceylonese first came into it. In 1926 Low Country beat Kandy United Services 14-3, in 1927 Up-Country beat Ceylonese 11-8, in 1928 Up-Country beat Ceylonese 15-1, in 1929 Low Country beat United Services 23-3, in 1930 Low Country beat Ceylonese 14-3, in 1931 Low Country beat Ceylonese 27-6, in 1932 Up-Country beat United Services 14-10, in 1933 Up-Country beat Kandy United Services 20-3, in 1934 Low Country beat Ceylonese 17-0, in 1935 Up-Country beat Kandy United Services 11-0, in 1936 Low Country beat Kandy United Services 9-3, in 1937 Up-Country beat Kandy United Services 25-0, in 1938 Up-Country beat Ceylonese 10-0, in 1939 match was cancelled with the start of the 2nd World War, from 1939 to 1950.

A new strategy was planned and worked out in the Island's one and only rugby tournament, the Clifford

Cup rugby tournament, was the Blue Ribbon of the country's rugby and was introduced to clubs for the first ever inter club championship in 1950.

Thereafter year after year it created a tremendous enthusiasm among the spectators, bringing surging crowds to watch the action and also thus creating healthy rivalry among the top contenders.

First to win the Clifford Cup

The honour of being the first to win the Clifford Cup went to those gallant set of ruggerites from Havelock town, Havelock SC, led by Ian Labrooy.

They went through the tournament without having their try line crossed, similarly the Dimbulla A & CC comprising some of the top players in the country, maintained an unbeaten record at their home grounds, Radella, until the game against Havelocks SC.

It is said that it was the best match ever to be witnessed at Radella. By virtue of their 13 points, two goals and a try to nil victory over the Dimbulla A & CC and Havelocks SC became the first inter club league champions and lifted Clifford Cup.

At the end Havelocks SC gained 14 points, in seven outings, two points ahead of the nearest CH & FC. Dimbulla in 1953 defeated the holders of the Cup, the CR & FC at Radella by 6 points (2 tries) to nil in the finals and became the first club from Up-Country to win the Clifford Cup.

Inaugural year

In the inaugural year the tournament kicked off as a league competition. The first game was played on April 29 and the competition ended on July 29. The curtain raiser was between CR & FC and Dickoya MCC. This game was kicked off at Darawella grounds. Dickoya led by D.A. Cook beat CR & FC led by Archibald Perera, which game was refereed by J.M. Stewart. In the inaugural year, CH & FC had the distinction of accumulating the highest score of the season when they beat Dimbulla ACC by 41 points to nil in Colombo.

The final placing - of the league - (1) Havelocks SC (played 7, won 7, points for 100 against 6), (2) CH &

FC (played 7, won 6 lost 1, scored 123 points for and against 11), (3) CR & FC, (4) Dimbulla A & CC, (5) Kandy SC, (6) Uva, (7) Dickoya MCC, (8) Uva, (9) KV. The champion Havelock SC - comprised players like - Ian Labrooy (Capt), B.S. Hanricus, H. Aldons, F. Aldons, H.E.V. Metzelling, E. Aldons, S.B. Pilapitiya, V. Kelly, A. Drienberg, R. Sourjah E. Mathays, I. Batholamues, L.Ephraums, D. Ernest, D.K. Goonawardene.

Almost a little over four decades since that auspicious initiative in 1950 is history now and what kind of changes we have seen in the tournament. Who could forget the day that the Air Force team led by Jeff Ratnam stormed into the final in 1965, the Army team entered the final in 1962, the Police team's dramatic entry in 1967 or the Navy SC sensational step-in in 1976, after being promoted to the big league only in the previous year.

In 1985 Sri Lanka's premier league tournament was renamed and the SLRFU decided to award the Clifford Cup to the winners of a separate Knock-out tournament conducted amongst the 'A' Division Clubs, at the end of the season. Thereafter, in 1992, for the first time, the entire tournament was worked off outside Colombo and the venue was Nittawela in Kandy. That year Kandy SC emerged winners of the Clifford Cup for the first time in the history, when it registered a historic 22 points to 9 points victory over the Police SC in the finals, which was the first major cup final to be played outside Colombo since 1957.

Only Up-Country club

Incidentally, the honour of being the only Up-Country club to win the Clifford Cup outright remained with Dimbulla ACC for almost four decades, thereafter, uninterruptedly till Kandy SC had their first touch on the Cup in 1992.

Clifford Cup has a long history, with Kandy Sports Club winning it for the most number of times- 21 times, CR & FC 14 times including a tie with Dimbulla ACC, Havelock SC 14 times including a tie with Police SC, Police SC 8 times with a tie with Havelock SC, CH & FC 7 times, Army 2 times, Dimbulla A & CC 2 times. Air Force and Navy once.

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WORLD OF SPORTS

(MARCH 18) LOCAL EVENTS CRICKET

(U-19 Limited Over): Mahanama vs St. Joseph's at CCC Grounds
Maliyadeva vs Prince of Wales at Kurunegala (Inter-Schools U-19 traditional):
St. Peter's vs Trinity at Bambalapitiya (1st day)
SLC T20 Tournament semi-finals:
CCC vs SSC at 10.00 a.m
Kurunegala YCC vs Army CC at 2.00 p.m
(Both matches at NCC Grounds)

VOLLEYBALL

Galaxy Trophy Tournament at Volleyball House, Dadella

FOREIGN EVENTS

India vs England (4th T20) at Ahmedabad

CRICKET

(Tour match): West Indies President's XI vs Sri Lanka at Antigua (2nd day)
(Sheffield Shield): Queensland vs Victoria at Brisbane (4th day)
(Road Safety World Series): 2nd semi-final at Raipur

TENNIS

Dubai Championships at Dubai Duty Free Tennis Centre
Mexican Open at Princess Mundo Imperial
Monterrey Open at Sonoma Club, Mexico
St. Petersburg Ladies' Trophy at Sibur Arena

BADMINTON

All-England Tournament at Birmingham

FOOTBALL

(International Friendly): Kenya vs Tanzania

GOLF

The Honda Classic at PGA National Champion Course, Florida
Kenya Open at Karen CC, Nairobi



Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa with World Cup winning team members and other officials

Sri Lanka's cricket WC win has lessons for all of us - Premier

DHAMMIKA RATNAWEERA

Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa yesterday said that if cricketers can build up excellent teamwork and play with more commitment like those days, then Sri Lanka could win the cricket world cup once again.

He made these observations at a ceremony held to mark the Silver Jubilee Celebrations of the 1996 Cricket World Cup triumph and to felicitate the players at Temple Trees.

"We have to look at our past and build up from those lessons, and this world cup victory gave a good lesson to all."

The Premier also pointed out two key incidents that took place during the World Cup, which highlighted the humanitarian aspect of the Sri Lanka Cricket Team. The first incident was when Sri Lanka's reserve player Upul Chandana had volunteered to field in the boundary in place of Aravinda de Silva to prevent him from being injured, as the crowd had commenced pelting bottles during the semi-final against India at the Eden Gardens in Kolkata.

The Prime Minister also pointed out the incident where Arjuna Ranatunga, who despite his father being a Minister at that time, had first visited the residence of late Minister Gamini Dissanayake to pay his gratitude for the ser-



Aravinda de Silva receiving his medal from Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa. Also in the picture are Arjuna Ranatunga and former Sports Minister S. B. Dissanayake

vice rendered to cricket. "These two incidents are good examples of the Sri Lankan Team show their humanitarian values on the cricketing field."

"We saw the performances of the Sri Lankan Legends Team in the ongoing Road Safety World Cricket Series in India, where they recorded consecutive victories."

"The secret behind these victories is

their playing style, which is backed by discipline and good commitment that have been there from those days." "They never played for money or other facilities those days and have shown the same kind of playing style today."

Meanwhile, a commemorative stamp was also issued to mark the 25th Anniversary of Sri Lanka winning the World Cup yesterday. The Prime Minister



Romesh Kaluwitharana receiving his medal from Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa

also presented medals to the world cup winning team members and these medals were presented by the ICC to mark the occasion.

Sports Minister Namal Rajapaksa, who expressed his thoughts through Zoom, said that he enjoyed watching the World Cup final as schoolboys 25 years ago.

"This world cup victory was the turning point of sports in the country and



Hashan Tillakaratne receiving his medal from Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa

our players proved they can win at international level with this great victory." World Cup winning members Skipper Ranatunga, Vice-Captain Aravinda de Silva, Roshan Mahanama, Hashan Tillakaratne, Romesh Kaluwitharana, Chaminda Vaas, Muttiah Muralitharan, Kumar Dharmasena, Marvan Atapattu, Upul Chandana and Ravindra Pushpakumra were present at this celebrations.

Sanath Jayasuriya, Asanka Gurusinha and Promodya Wickramasinghe were not present at this occasion as they were out of the country.

Kurunegala YCC eye final spot in SLC T20

Kurunegala YCC will look to create another major upset when they take on Army CC in the SLC Twenty20 Cricket Tournament semi-final encounter at the NCC Grounds in Maitland Place today.

Kurunegala YCC are brimming with confidence after having knocked out the more fancied NCC team by 63 runs in the quarter-finals played on Tuesday at the P. Sara Oval in Colombo.

In contrast, Army CC had a close call in their quarter-final as they edged out Negombo CC by six runs at the CCC Grounds and will be under pressure to keep their reputation.

Kurunegala YCC will bank on their bowlers to deliver the goods once again

with Ruvin Peiris, Randeera Ranasinghe and Naveen Gunawardena capable of running through the innings.

Their batting will be in the hands of Gayan Maneeshan who hammered a match-winning half century in the quarter-finals to emerge as the leading run-getter so far in the tournament.

Meanwhile, a rousing game is on the cards when the heavyweights CCC confront the SSC in the first semi-final encounter at the same venue.

Both teams were ruthless in their respective quarter-finals as the SSC outplayed Colts CC by six wickets while CCC had the better of Ragama CC by 57 runs.



Kurunegala YCC celebrate a dismissal during the quarter-final fixture (Pic courtesy SLC)

All-round Dabare steers DSS to easy win

DHAMMIKA RATNAWEERA

Amitha Dabare produced a fine all-round performance as D. S. Senanayake College recorded a 54-run victory over De Mazenod College, Kandana in their Under-19 Inter-Schools Limited Over Cricket Tournament fixture played at Wijerama Mawatha yesterday.

D. S. Senanayake made 248 for eight wickets in 50 overs while De Mazenod were all out for 194 in 43.4 overs.

Dabare made 45 in 41 balls with seven fours and also came out with impressive figures of three for 44.

Chief scores
At Wijerama Mawatha (D. S. Senanayake won by 54 runs)

D. S. Senanayake: 248/8 in 50 overs (Amitha Dabare 45, Maneendra Jayathilleka 51, Manura Gathsara 40 n.o., Chanuka Silva 3/37)

De Mazenod: 194 in 43.4 overs (Sahan Kosala 50, Chamodya Pasindu 31, Sihina Sithumina 37, Amitha Dabare 3/44).

At Kotahena (St. Benedict's won by 38 runs)
St. Benedict's: 149 in 40 overs (Thenuka Nandalal 77, Rishitha Perera 4/33)

St. Anne's: 111 in 27.4 overs (Chamath Chathurya 4/21).

At Campbell Park (Wesley won by three wickets)
Gurukula MV: 198/9 in 50 overs (Tharindu Himasara 31, Rashmika Mevan 30, Sithija Chamod 35, Malshan Lakshita 35)

Wesley: 199/7 in 47.5 overs (Sahil Dias 62, Sidath Dharmasirwardena 33, Denuwan Mendis 36 n.o., Thushara Wanigasinghe 3/37).

At Kalutara (Galahitiyawa Central won by three wickets)
Kalutara MV: 113 in



Amitha Dabare (D. S. Senanayake)

29.1 overs (Dinuka Thisara 30, Subhan Ranasinghe 3/19, Esanda Sithum 3/18)
Galahitiyawa Central: 115/7 in 34.5 overs (Esanda Sithum 31, Sadeep Fernando 3/17).

At Homagama (President's College, Maharagama won by four wickets)
Homagama MMV: 164/9 in 50 overs (Chamith Navoda 49, Kavindu Peiris 68, Jayuka Kandanarachchi 4/28)

President's College: 168/6 in 29.1 overs (Chandeepra Kumarasinghe 37, Ishara Perera 53).

At Narammala (Sir John Kotelawala MV won by 89 runs)
Sir John Kotelawala MV: 278/9 in 50 overs (Thumosh Kithmal 73, Shehan Kokila 38, Mohammad Inzamam 48)

Maliyadeva Model School: 189 in 40.1 overs (Laksara Jyasinghe 44, Kavinda Seneviratne 65, Gimhana Alahakoon 3/31).

At Badulla (St. Joseph's, Bandarawela won by 70 runs)
St. Joseph's: 136 in 40.5 overs (Sithila Dilshan 38, Roschana Hirusha 5/28, Kaushan Harshan 3/24)

Uva College, Badulla: 66 in 19.4 overs (Yasiru Ruwantha 5/11).

Up-country Lions rout New Young 7-0



Kavindu Ishan of Up-country Lions SC celebrates after scoring

ALTHAF NAWAZ

A superb team effort helped the Up-country Lions SC crush New Young SC 7-0 in their Pre-League Football Tournament match played at the Sugathadasa Stadium in Colombo yesterday. The winners led 2-0 at half time.

New Young SC gifted their opponents with two penalties in the first half and left-extreme Kavindu Ishan made no mistake firing in the kicks.

After the first half, it was a one-sided contest as Up-country SC scored five more goals.

Mohamed Shifan joined in the party to boot three goals in quick succession while Kavindu Ishan scored his third goal in the latter part of the game and Kavindu Fernando placed the final nail in the coffin to seal an easy victory.

Sri Rahula triumph by five wickets

HAFIZ MARIKAR

Sri Rahula College, Katugastota defeated Henegama Central by five wickets in their Inter-Schools Under-19 Limited Over Cricket Tournament match played at the Prison Grounds in Pallekele yesterday.

After restricting their opponents to 162 runs, Sri Rahula went on to make 163 for five in 40.1 overs.

Henegama Central: 162 in 49.1 overs (Vibuthi Priyan 37, Ashan Rajapaksa 21, Akash Gardiyawasam 3/25, Dilshan Arambegoda 2/26, Thilanka Kumarathunga 2/33)

Sri Rahula: 163/5 in 40.1 overs (Kushan Senarath 34 n.o., Vichintha Malwatta 28, Dilshan Arambegoda 26, Vishal Gardiyawasam 25, Janith Maitipe 20, Kusal Jayasanka 2/13, Rashvika Chamath 2/39).

Re-telecast of 1996 World Cup final on Channel Eye



Sri Lanka Rupavahini's Channel Eye will relay a repeat telecast of the 1996 Cricket World Cup final between Sri Lanka and Australia today (18) commencing at 4.30 p.m.

The re-telecast, powered by Dialog Axiata PLC, will also feature an exclusive studio segment with a few stars of the 1996 team and more from 3.00 p.m. to 4.30 p.m. as they recount the most memorable moments of the match for the first time together as a team in almost two decades.

Daily News Business

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TRC to commence 5G spectrum auction by year end

SHIRAJIV SIRIMANE

The Telecom Regulatory Commission (TRC) will commence the 5G spectrum auction by the end of the year, TRC Director General, Oshada Senanayake said at an event where HUTCH for the first time demonstrated their 5G capabilities at One Galle Face Mall yesterday.

HUTCH teamed up with ZTE, a global leader in telecommunications and information technology for this groundbreaking 5G trial which included several demonstrations and use cases of 5G.

He said that the 5G trials were conducted last year and with the 5G auction the much awaited and long over due 5G roll out would commence towards the end of

the year. He however said that he was disappointed to note that unlike during the launch of the 4G network where Sri Lanka was first in the region to implement it the country has lagged behind in the 5G deployment mainly due to less infrastructure being placed at the 'right points' during the last few years.

"However with the change of government and Digitalization top priority in President Gotabaya Rajapaksa's manifesto 'things' are now shifting in the right direction." He said that 5G will also help in several areas like Smart cities, driverless cars, Smart garbage collection, parking, traffic lights, health, education and several other initiatives.

Senanayake also said that Sri Lanka is among the top 10 countries offering lowest voice calls charges and this will further reduce next year taking Sri Lanka to the ninth position.

In addition Sri Lanka is also ranked 30th in the Mobile Broadband connectivity network this too will reduce to 29th soon. He also disclosed that the 'Number Portability' too would be a reality this year.

Commenting on the new milestone, HUTCH CEO, Thirukumar Nadarasa said, "This is indeed a special moment for all of us at HUTCH.

As a company that seeks to exceed the expectations of our valued customers, the new HUTCH network is

5G-ready, fostering a new era of technological transformation."

HUTCH geared up for the 5G trial in a backdrop of having completed the Etisalat merger last year with an island wide 4G expansion which proved to be a watershed moment in HUTCH's long cherished journey in Sri Lanka.

CK Hutchison has positioned itself as a key player in the global 5G drive for both mobile broadband as well as commercial purposes with advanced 5G networks already launched in Austria, Denmark, Hong Kong, Ireland, Italy, Sweden & UK over the last two years, clearly demonstrating its commitment to advanced technology.

HUTCH 5G demonstration



Chief Guest Telecommunications Regulatory Commission of Sri Lanka Director General Oshada Senanayake and HUTCH CEO Thirukumar Nadarasa at the 5G trial demonstration



MEPA launches 'Sayura Rakina Ralla'

PAGE 20

ICRA Lanka assigns [SL] A+mfs rating to Senfin Money Market Fund

ICRA Lanka Limited has assigned a credit risk rating of [SL]A+mfs (pronounced as Sri Lanka A plus m f s) to the Senfin Money Market Fund (SMMF or "Fund") which is managed by Senfin

Asset Management (Pvt) Ltd (the asset management company). Schemes with this rating are considered to have adequate degree of safety regarding timely receipt of payments from the investments that they have made. The assigned rating is based on the Fund's portfolio with the credit score being comfortable at the assigned rating level.

The rating indicates ICRA Lanka's opinion on the credit quality of the portfolio held by the fund.

It does not indicate SMMF's willingness or ability to make timely payments to the fund's investors. The rating should not be construed as an indication of expected returns, prospective performance of the mutual fund scheme, net asset value (NAV) or volatility in its returns.

ICRA Lanka's mutual fund rating methodology is based on evaluating the inherent credit quality of the fund's portfolio.

Bio security bubble to support investors visiting Sri Lanka – Chairman BOI

The Board of Investment of Sri Lanka will facilitate potential investors, who wish to visit the country through the bio security bubble option. MoH recommended Covid-19 preventive measures will be practiced throughout such visits, with the bio security bubble ensuring that neither the local popu-

lation nor visiting investors will be at risk of exposure.

This will be possible through selected hotels, safe transport facilities and all other stipulated health and safety measures, facilitated through the BOI.

"A significant number of investors have shown interest in Sri Lanka, despite the impacts of the global pandemic, and measures such as the bio safety bubble are progressive steps towards regaining our country's economic advantages," said Sanjaya Mohottala, Chairman BOI.



Governor of Central Province Lalith U. Gamage presents a token to French Ambassador, Eric Lavertu

HAFIZ MARRIKAR

France is ready to provide a grant for the preliminary impact assessments of the proposed cable car project for Kandy.

"The project cost would be financed

at very concessionary terms," said French Ambassador, Eric Lavertu during a visit to Kandy last week. He was accompanied by the French state development arm known as AFD (Agence Française de Développement Group).

Proposed cable car project in Kandy

France to provide grant for preliminary impact assessments

The French team also met the Governor of Central Province Lalith U. Gamage and Mayor of Kandy, Kesera Senenayake, Kandy's main traders associations during this visit. It was disclosed that a cable car project is a viable solution to being a solution for the heavy traffic congestion in Kandy. It was proposed to link the Cable cars from the Eastern side of Kandy, connecting them via a "park and cable car ride" direct to the Kandy railway station.

"This will also be a major tourist attraction for both local and foreign travellers." The initial suggestions was a connection from the Kandy side of the bridge to Kandasale terminating at the Kandy central railway station which will in turn be part of the new bus terminal and railway complex. The suggested route was via the Dharmaraja Hill, and then linked to towers along the borders of the Walker's Estate and down over the former Bogambara Prison complex too was proposed. The del-

egation insisted that these were only very preliminary views.

Country Director for Sri Lanka of AFD Reda Souirgi also said that they are keen to assist in other similar projects as well.

During this visit the Ambassador also inaugurated 'The Nawalapitiya Grid Sub Station' along with Minister of Power and Energy Dullas Alahapperuma.

It was part of an ongoing project with the CEB since 2015 costing Euro

30 million loan supporting the construction of four new grid substations located in the Central province, namely, in Maliboda, Wewalwatta, Nawalapitiya and Ragala. Of these, Maliboda and Wewalwatta Grid Substations are already energized.

The project is expected to bring down Sri Lanka's carbon emissions as per the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) submitted under the Paris Agreement. It is expected to conclude by mid-2021.

Green investments, revenue mobilization, big data

Key to SA's COVID-19 economic recovery

Southeast Asian countries can benefit from investments in green infrastructure, digital transformation, big data, and revenue mobilization through tax reform as the region recovers from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, said Asian Development Bank (ADB) President Masatsugu Asakawa at the second Southeast Asia Development Symposium.

"As countries slowly begin to emerge from the devastating health and economic impacts of the pandemic, we now stand at a critical juncture. The pandemic offers us a unique opportunity to rebuild for a more resilient, inclusive, and sustainable recovery," said Mr. Asakawa at the opening session of the symposium. "The pandemic is presenting all of us with

unprecedented challenges, and we need to forge a new path forward together, one which taps new ideas and technologies, and leverages our existing platforms for innovation and partnership."

Developing economies in Southeast Asia can benefit from action in three key policy areas, which are laid out in a series of policy briefs released by ADB yesterday. The symposium, "Innovation through Collaboration: Planning for Inclusive Post-COVID-19 Recovery", is being held virtually on March 17-18, 2021. The event will explore how Southeast Asian nations can improve access to vaccines, revitalize businesses, create jobs, and harness big data and new technology to support growth.

Quarterly corporate earnings grow 30%

Market growth to continue

DINESH PERERA

Corporate earnings of listed companies have grown by around 30% in the third quarter (Nov-Dec 2020) of this financial year. Panellists on a Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) webinar advocated for increased exposure to equity investments given the current policy dynamics.

The growth in corporate earnings has been driven by low-interest rates and changes in the way the economy functions. Due to import restrictions, there has been a considerable rise in the activity of local players in the construction materials sector. Logistics providers have seen considerable growth in revenue and profitability as freight rates have increased exponentially. With the advent of work from home, there has been a boom in refurbishment and the purchase of consumer electronics.

These issues were discussed on March 15 at the CFA webinar titled, 'Will Sri Lanka's Markets Bounce Back? or was Singer January, A flash in the pan?' Director/ CEO Softlogic Invest Niloo Jayatilake was of



Chief Strategist Capital Alliance Udeeshan Jonas

the view that investors would be better served by equity investments than fixed-income alternatives.

Jayatilake said, "The backbone of the whole thing is the low-interest rates. In the history of the stock market, I haven't seen daily turnover consistently going over Rs 10 billion. It showed that there was money out there. With the money printing and the low-interest rates, there was all this money chasing equity. With the clear government mandate, people were waiting for a catalyst to come in to rejuvenate the market and that is what happened in January."



Principal NDB Zephyr Kanishka Perera

Principal NDB Zephyr Kanishka Perera said, "Low-interest rates will continue for another couple of years at least." Perera acknowledged the meteoric rise of Expolanka. He said, "Freight rates have increased substantially. What used to cost US\$ 1,200 is now costing about US\$ 4,000."

Perera was bullish about continued growth in corporate earnings. He said, "Some part of it may be sustainable over the long term." Chief Strategist Capital Alliance Udeeshan Jonas said, "Companies like Singer did really well. There was a lot of demand for work-from-home equipment."



Director/ CEO Softlogic Invest Niloo Jayatilake

Jonas noted that the banking sector has significantly underperformed the market. He said, "We saw 35% of banks' loan book being classified as debt moratoriums with payment delayed. We will see a lot of it end on March 31."

"There will definitely be an increase in impairment. The moratoriums might be extended. The saviour of the market was the liquidity that entered the market.

Globally we have seen about US\$ 12 trillion by Central Banks coming into the system. We saw interest rates that were not even covering inflation which forced investors to look at equity," Jonas said.

FitsAir welcomes first Airbus A320 to its fleet in SL

Sri Lanka's largest private airline FitsAir welcomed its first Airbus A320 to be inducted to its fleet.

The aircraft will be converted to a freighter to support the local exporters and boost shipment volumes.

A second Airbus A320 is expected to join in mid April 2021.

"We are proud that our Airbus fleet will be manned by

an all Sri Lankan, experienced flight crew. Since 1997, FitsAir has provided an unparalleled travel experience among domestic passenger operations in Sri Lanka on charter basis," an official said.

FitsAir is Sri Lanka's first and only private airline to be licensed for International Cargo Operations by the Civil Aviation Authority Sri Lanka (CAASL).



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Lasantha Wijeweera, Director

AMW Manufacturing enters 2021 with positive outlook

AMW Manufacturing, Sri Lanka's pioneering tyre manufacturer, has risen above the challenges of the past year with a very positive outlook for 2021. The company has dealt exceptionally well with COVID-19 and thrived amidst the novel market challenges to record impressive growth during 2020.

This has been the result of acting quickly and decisively to completely restructure the company's internal processes so as to cater to a post-COVID marketplace. Proactively rising to the COVID-19 challenge from the very initial stage, AMW Manufacturing worked closely with the Sri Lanka Standards Institute to implement a state-of-the-art COVID-19 Safety Management System and was the second organization in the country to have its COVID-19 safety system certified.

As a result, AMW Manufacturing

managed to continue their operations unhindered while ensuring the health and safety of its associates. With equal proactiveness, the entire organization was repositioned for even greater customer focus, supported by a change of structure, internal processes, intensive training for all employees and a complete overhaul of SOPs to ensure faster response times and a single point of contact for customers.

The introduction of Lean management has reduced waste and improved customer value creation while the introduction of cutting-edge automation and information technology, right down to the production floor, has made real-time decision making simpler and dramatically improved operational efficiency.

"Our strategic initiatives are centered on creating customer centric organization supported by engaged employees,

Lean business practices and technology, which will ensure that we live our promise of 'Going the extra mile', added Lasantha Wijeweera, Director - Manufacturing, AMW. "Our focus on superior product and service quality as well as customer value addition has delivered results during the past few challenging months. So, our investments in people, processes and technology will continue, and we are certain of achieving even greater results".

He further commented, "As we forge ahead, we are very optimistic about the market, especially in our area of expertise - material handling tyres. We will continue to build on our present position of strength by frequently incorporating the latest technology as we strive for even better business success."

Building further on its recent achievements, the company has significantly

increased its overall capacity, with an impressive 70% additional capacity to be introduced in the 'Solid Tyres' sector. The organization also retains its position as the market leader in the domain of Custom Compound Mixing, with the addition of yet another state-of-the-art Banbury Mixer to its product line.

AMW Manufacturing is a subsidiary of Associated Motorways (Private) Limited and enjoys a long and illustrious history with over 69 years in the tyre manufacturing sector. Today, the organization delivers a range of high-quality products to a global clientele.

AMW also works in close partnership with the Al-Futtaim Group, one of the world's leading multinationals, originating in the UAE. This, in turn, gives AMW global reach, access to international expertise, and ensures continual growth.

DPMC opens workshop in Matara



Rohana Dissanayake, Chairman, David Peiris Group lights the traditional oil lamp while DPMC, Director Vehicle Sales Naalaka Madugalla and DPMC Director Parts and Accessories Jayantha Ratnayake looks on



David Peiris Motor Company recently opened 'DPMC Workshop in Matara', the first company operated vehicle service centre outside the Western Province.

Located on Galle Road, Thalaramba, Kamburugamuwa, just before the Matara town, the new workshop offers servicing, maintenance and repairs for all Bajaj vehicles, KTM motorcycles as well as body wash and detailing of all types of vehicles.

DPMC currently operates a similar workshop in Madapatha, Piliyandala.

Commenting on the new workshop in Matara, DPMC's Divisional Manager Field Service Channa Ranawaka said, "We have always invested in providing the highest levels of after sales care and technical

support for Bajaj vehicles and now with import restrictions it is even more critical to maintain and service existing vehicles. This is why we are extending the services of our in-house expertise, to other parts of the country through our own Workshops. We hope this Workshop will be the first of many to be set up across the country".

Customers can enjoy a gamut of other services as a Bajaj Genuine Spare Parts outlet too operates from the same premises along with a branch of Riyasakwala where customers can purchase, sell or exchange registered vehicles. Also available are leasing and insurance facilities offered through related Group companies: Assetline Leasing Company Ltd and Assetline Insurance Brokers.

Walkers Equipment introduces Bull Skid Steer Loader AV490 to Sri Lankan construction industry



Walkers Equipment Limited, a subsidiary of MTD Walkers PLC has been appointed as exclusive dealer for Sri Lanka and Maldives for BULL Construction Machineries. BULL Machines has already made an impact in the world market by producing world class dedicated construction equipment and machineries and able to secure more than 30,000 customers within the period of 16 years.

Assistant General Manager - Marketing Walkers Equipment Limited, Prasanna Katuwandeniya stated BULL AV490 Skid steer loader is a reliable brand for Sri Lankan Construction Industry with affordable price, equipped with high end spare parts.

In 1994 BULL started with five employees and today BULL has more than 1,000 employees



AGM, Marketing Walkers Equipment, Prasanna Katuwandeniya. (Left) First three units of The Best All Rounder BULL Skid Steer Loader AV490 now available in Sri Lanka

inclusive of more than 100 of qualified engineers currently involved in this business all over the world.

Bull Skid Steer Loader AV490 'The Best All Rounder' with the full range of interchangeable attachments such as sweeper attachment, Backhoe attachment, Concrete mixture attachment, compactor roller attachment and forklift attachment other than the normal skid operation now in Sri Lanka.

Av490 Skid steer loader is equipped with rear camera, inbuilt led light and music player with radio, Pilot operated joysticks, TFT resistive touch screen and is able to operate even with oily hands and also has auto brightness adjustment feature in its touch screen which saves 25% more on fuel.

It also has a foot accelerator for optimal speed management and easy serviceability.

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People's Bank CEO, General Manager felicitated by Association of Professional Bankers

People's Bank CEO and General Manager Ranjith Kodithuwakku was felicitated by the Association of Professional Bankers at their Annual Member Felicitation Ceremony held recently.

The ceremony was held at the Ivy Room at the Cinnamon Grand, in compliance with the required health and safety guidelines.

The ceremony was attended by Council Members, Advisory Council Members and the Fund Management Committee of the Association of Professional Bankers Sri Lanka.



People's Bank CEO and General Manager Ranjith Kodithuwakku receives the felicitation award

MEPA launches 'Sayura Rakina Ralla'

In order to protect Sri Lanka's endangered water resources and environment, Sri Lanka's Marine Environment Protection Authority (MEPA) launched the 'Sayura Rakina Ralla' 'Protect the Sea' community-led programme.

Under this umbrella initiative the organisation also launched the 'Sayura Rakina Ralla' Facebook page and a theme song to engage and educate the public on proper waste disposal and minimizing the use of non-biodegradable waste, thereby encouraging them to take a proactive approach in restoring the coastlines of Sri Lanka to its former glory.

In order to shed light on the country's lack of correct waste disposal whilst parallelly encouraging and educating Sri Lankans to 'clean up their act', MEPA, which is under the aegis of the State Ministry of Urban Development, Coast Conservation, Waste Disposal and Community Cleanliness, commenced the community-led Corporate Social Responsibility programme 'Sayura Rakina Ralla' which



Dr. Nalaka Godahewa MP and officials at the launch of 'Sayura Rakina Ralla'

was inaugurated by Sri Lanka Rugby and Sri Lanka's premier connectivity provider, Dialog Axiata PLC, Dialog with a beach clean-up at Sarakkuwa beach in Jala.

The 'Sayura Rakina Ralla' Facebook (FB) page and campaign was also launched at the beach clean-up by State Minister of Urban Development, Coast Conservation, Waste Disposal and Community Cleanliness Dr. Nalaka Godahewa MP, MEPA goodwill ambassadors Bhathiya and Santhush (BnS), Chairperson of the

Environment Protection Agency (MEPA) Dharshani Lahandapura and General Manager of MEPA Dr. Terney Pradeep Kumara.

Sri Lanka has ranked poorly according to a global pollution study conducted by the World Bank in 2015, with plastic emerging as the chief culprit. On average, a Sri Lankan produces 500g of non-degradable waste per day resulting in a mammoth amount of 100 million KGs of solid waste added into Sri Lanka's coastal waters, according to 2017 records. Sri Lanka despite taking

pride in its turquoise seas, white sandy beaches, lush virgin forests and extensive lakes and rivers is one of the biggest polluters of non-biodegradable waste in the world, especially in terms of plastic.

"I hope 'Sayura Rakina Ralla' generates the necessary traction that will educate the public to take the much-needed steps to help turn the fate of Sri Lanka's coastline around so that future generations too can enjoy and savour its beauty," stated Dr. Nalaka Godahewa MP, State Minister of Urban Development, Coast Conservation, Waste Disposal and Community Cleanliness.

"Being an island nation, with 510,000 square kilometres of sea under its belt as an Exclusive Economic Zone, which is eight times the size of the country's land mass, it's critical for Sri Lanka's economy that we safeguard our primary national asset, our marine resources from pollution and lead the way in sustainable economic growth within the South Asian region." Dr. Godahewa further added.

'Japan Gedara' partners BMC opens showroom

One of Sri Lanka's leading construction brand, Japan Gedara by Sanritsu Deco opened its latest branch at the BMC showroom (Building Materials Corporation) in Colombo, to provide total construction solutions with a hassle-free customer experience.

With this branch opening Japan Gedara expands on its longstanding partnership with BMC to serve Sri Lankan construction industry. They could now serve customers through an extensive technical knowledge in construction technology.

Japan Gedara, was incorporated in 2013 with the collaboration of Japanese and Sri Lankan Professionals with the global dream of implementing Japanese technology and Building Construction proficiency to the Sri Lankan Market.

In Collaboration with Sanritsu Corporation, an already established juggernaut in the



Chathuranga Vithanage Managing Director of Japan Gedara explains about their products to Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa and Minister Indika Anurudhtha

world renowned Innovative Japanese Building and construction sector, Japan Gedara brings the Sri Lankan Touch with High Efficiency and Cutting-Edge Technology which reduces costs and time-bound traditional Construction culture. They offer design and

build services for customers from initial sketches to the final construction.

As a professional construction services provider, Japan Gedara offers a wide range of construction services that are customized for customer's specific needs.

They are Specialists in Aluminium and metal sidings for ceiling, partitioning, interior and exterior wall decorations and specialized in roofing solutions.

These high-quality materials are imported from Japan and Japan Gedara are the sole distributor.

"It has been a real pleasure for me to open a new branch at Building Materials Corporation's showroom and partnering with the government sector to implement our new technology and construction culture to the Sri Lankan construction industry. We can serve customers with a wide range of construction services. Our products are high density, high dimensional stability, sustainable, eco forest, low expansion, non-deformation, natural appearance and easy installing," said Chathuranga Vithanage, Managing Director of Japan Gedara.

Elephant House shines at NCE Export Awards

Elephant House has clinched two Gold awards along with a Special Award at the 28th annual NCE Export Awards 2020.

Backed by the rich and strong heritage since 1866, Elephant House, synonymous with wholesome goodness and fun has established a long-standing tradition and culture of excellence that has truly won the hearts of its countrymen.

Having bravely navigated through the business waters, persevering hardships and new challenges such as the Covid crisis, Elephant House has securely established itself as one of the most recognised brands in the local and international arena. Winning Golds in the "Confectionary and Beverage Products Medium" and in the "Processed Food Products Small" categories was a testimony of the commitment and dedication Elephant House has towards their consumers. These recognitions are among the most recent in a long outstanding history of achievement where Elephant House has secured wins multiple times in many categories.

The Achievement of the Gold award for "Confectionary and Beverage Products" in the medium category was a strong indicator of the popularity and demand Elephant House has established among the consumers across generations. Elephant House



Sudantha Victoria, Head of International Marketing, Ceylon Cold Stores receives the special award for Best Performing Exporter in emerging markets

also won a Silver in the "Confectionary Products Medium" category in 2019, whereby the win in 2020 shows that the brand has set a higher bar and excelled to achieve success. This is the third consecutive year that Elephant House has been recognized and awarded for this category.

Receiving the Special Award for "Best Performing Exporter in Emerging Markets" was an honoured achievement as it highlighted Elephant House's initiatives to take Sri Lanka into the global sphere and the brand's strong ability to remain resilient in markets like the Maldives and Australia during the pandemic crisis.

"We are humbled to be recognized and awarded for our contributions. Elephant House will undoubtedly continue to push into new territories

and international markets. Our existing presence in over 30 markets worldwide, including UK, Switzerland, France, Italy, UAE, Australia, India and the Maldives, and our most recent entry in to challenging markets such as Seychelles in 2020 have proven our capabilities," commented Sudantha Victoria, Head of International Marketing.

Elephant House is an undisputed leader in the industry. Showcasing its Sri Lankan roots, Elephant House has a presence onboard the national carrier SriLankan Airlines, welcoming guests with the refreshing beverages that are truly unique. The premium product ranges have propelled the brand into the international arena and placed Sri Lankan food products in global markets.

Ceylinco Life launches 'Viyaparika Athwala' to support SL entrepreneurs

Ceylinco Life has announced the launch an entrepreneur development programme titled 'Viyaparika Athwala,' which will be conducted island-wide to support the aspirations of Sri Lankan business people, in the backdrop of the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Loosely translating to 'A hand to business' the programme will consist of a monthly seminar focusing on motivational as well as behavioural aspects that can help entrepreneurs better manage their businesses as well as their work-life balance, the Company said.

The first workshop under this initiative was held recently in Kandy with the participation of a group of entrepreneurs in the area, in accordance with the COVID-19 health and safety guidelines stipulated by the Ministry of Health and the Government. At the helm of the event was motivational speaker Udaya Devamulla who addressed the audience on goal setting and overcoming obstacles.

Ceylinco Life has planned 12 such programmes for the year ahead, all of which



Mr Udaya Devamulla addresses the audience at Ceylinco Life's inaugural 'Viyaparika Athwala' programme

will include addresses by key resource personnel on topics such as goal setting, handling obstacles and overcoming problems, living a healthy and active life, health tips, and best practices in health screening.

Commenting on the launch of this programme, Ceylinco Life Managing Director Thushara Ranasinghe said, "Besides promoting a positive and well-balanced approach to business, we hope the pro-

gramme will also encourage entrepreneurs to pursue their ambitions with confidence. As the country's leading life insurer, we know through our interactions with hundreds of thousands of people that fear of risk can limit a person's ability to pursue goals, and by extension, the capacity to earn. We will elaborate on how de-risking one's ambitions can unleash potential that has been held in check."

'Viyaparika Athwala' will also provide a platform to create awareness among busy and ambitious entrepreneurs on how life insurance can help them to work towards and achieve goals and dreams, by providing the peace of mind needed to work towards personal and career goals.

Sri Lanka's leading life insurer for more than half of the 33 years it has been in existence, and certified as a 'Great Workplace' in Sri Lanka by Great Place to Work, Ceylinco Life was ranked the 'Most Valuable Life Insurance Brand' in Sri Lanka by Brand Finance in 2020 and declared the 'Peoples Life Insurance Service Provider of the Year' for the 14th consecutive year at the 2020 SLIM-Nielsen Peoples Awards.

Ceylinco Life has close to a million lives covered by active policies and is acknowledged as a benchmark in the local insurance sector for innovation, product research and development, customer service, professional development, and corporate social responsibility.

ComBank unveils new look Jaffna branch in Green building

History was revisited once again when the Commercial Bank of Ceylon returned to the original location of its Jaffna branch recently, resuming operations at an address where banking had taken place since the late 1930s.

Completely rebuilt and designed and equipped for eco-friendly operations, the new Jaffna branch building at Hospital Road, Jaffna, represents a major enhancement in services.

The original building at this location came into Commercial Bank's possession in 1973 when the Bank acquired three branches of the Mercantile Bank of India (MBI), and had been patronised by several generations of customers. The branches



Commercial Bank Chairman Justice K. Sripavan flanked by the Bank's Managing Director S. Renganathan and Chief Operating Officer Sanath Manatunge, opens the new Jaffna branch building in the presence of members of the corporate and senior management

been in operation since 1973 without any interruption to its operations. Commercial Bank operates 12

branches within the Jaffna peninsula and a total of 18 branches in the Northern region.

Following its ceremonial reopening on March 15, the new five-storey Jaffna branch of Commercial

Bank has an Automated Banking Centre (ABC) with five Cash Recycler Machines (CRMs), an eSlip cheque collection facility and a Cheque Deposit Machine (CDM) that together offer access to cash and deposit facilities around the clock, 365 days of the year.

The building will be fitted with rooftop solar panels that will generate a major percentage of the electricity required; a rain-water harvesting facility and its own sewage treatment plant that will recycle sewage into water to irrigate the gardens; and is designed to maximise use of natural light during daytime, further reducing energy consumption. It is also equipped with energy-effi-

cient air-conditioning, and the accessories in the bathrooms are all water-efficient, enhancing the building's 'Green' credentials. Additionally, the Bank said many green and re-usable materials were used in the construction process.

The new building was ceremoniously declared open by Commercial Bank Chairman Justice K. Sripavan accompanied by the Bank's Managing Director Mr S. Renganathan, Chief Operating Officer Mr Sanath Manatunge and members of the corporate management.

Commercial Bank also recently relocated its Trincomalee branch to a purpose-built eco-friendly building on land owned by the Bank.

AIA introduces cloud-based workflow automation

AIA Insurance claimed yet another industry first in digital transformation with the introduction of cloud-based workflow automation. AIA selected Microsoft Azure Logic Apps to enable the automation of many of its critical workflows.

The automation programme, which is being rolled out in AIA's Operations as well as across multiple functions of the company facilitates the digitization of typically routine manual processes related to new business onboarding and ultimately various other end-to-end customer service processes.

Leveraging workflow automation enables improvements in productivity, increases efficiency and accuracy of business processes in relation to insurance policy issuance and claims management.

AIA's CEO Nikhil Advani said in this regard "Digital transformation is an essential priority for AIA and we are committed to leverage technology to enable a superlative service our customers. Cloud based workflow automation brings in a new dimension of digital transformation and automation to Sri Lanka and we are proud to be the pioneers in the industry. Our end goal with this particular programme is to ensure efficient, accurate and speedy policy issuance, which in turn will benefit our customers."

AIA's Chief Technology Officer Umeshi DeFonseka added, "By using

automated workflows, we are streamlining and speeding up internal processes and reducing manual interventions. The solution is extremely user-friendly - it works on any device that has an internet connection and a web browser and can be accessed from anywhere in the world. This cloud service integrates with multiple systems and services across the organization to provide a seamless experience to the user. As with any best practice, innovation and disruption should happen from within the organization for the customer to reap actual benefits and at AIA, that is precisely what we are doing!"

Director and Chief Officer Legal and Operations for AIA, Chathuri Munaweera further noted that "At AIA we are constantly looking for ways to improve our processes so that we can offer unmatched convenience to our customers. This new Cloud Based Workflow Automation will help us increase efficacy of the onboarding process and improve operations across the enterprise, which in turn will help us manage our customer experiences more effectively. The end goal is to boost customer loyalty and grow our business."





Daily News

TOWN & COUNTRY

To re-ignite the passions of town & country folk

With the awards she won at the i-SING World 2019. Picture by Nissanka Wijerthne

With the trophy and certificate she won for second place at the Oman Gavel championship of Public Speaking

FEATURES EDITOR : (011) 242 9216 Fax : (011) 234 3694 E mail : features.dailynews@lakehouse.lk

TOWN & COUNTRY TOWN & COUNTRY TOWN & COUNTRY



Performing at the i-SING World Finals

Hitting the high notes!

RUWINI JAYAWARDANA

In an industry where fame and failure rewrite destinies in a matter of days, Yenuli Binara has been calling the tune since she emerged as a child vocalist. In tinselville where people thrive on rumour for visibility and hang on desperately to consciously built images, everything about this sought-after young songstress appears real: the voice, the experiments and the persona.

The emerging young vocalist of Sri Lankan lineage came into the spotlight after winning the first runner up title from the Junior Category at the i-SING World 2019. Globally renowned as the biggest international singing competition which offers aspiring singers a platform to showcase their talents to the world, i-SING World provided the inspiration and motivation for the youth to continue her journey at a steady pace in the musical scene.

She already has a song to her name. Titled 'Wake Up Mom', Yenuli penned the lyrics, did the melody, as well as acted in the music video of the song. The song is inspired by Yenuli's passion to protect the environment.

"I thought of doing my bit to make the busybodies out there realize the importance of protecting Mother Nature," Yenuli shared her vision behind her debut single.

She received a five star Commended Award in the

"Singer and Songwriting category" for her song from over 9,000 contestants from 84 countries at the UK Song Writing Competition 2020 held in UK.

Bagging the Best audience-performer award in Stockholm, Sweden, was another feather in her cap. She also clinched the Special Jury Award at the Euro-pop Singing Competition held in Berlin, Germany, and the Oman Gavel club Public Speaking, first runner-up award.

The Grade 7 student of Sri Lankan school, Muscat, Oman, recently got 95 percent marks in "Rhetoric: The Art of Persuasive Writing and Public Speaking" at Harvard University in the USA. She was also selected as a Youth Ambassador for the HundrED Youth Ambassador Programme for 2021 held in Finland. She was the youngest youth ambassador to attend the event which took place online on February 21.

HundrED is an internationally recognised non-profit organisation, based in Finland, which seeks and shares inspiring innovations in K12 education worldwide. Participants at the orientation programme shared their ideas about education and the need to propagate equal education for everyone globally. HundrED Youth Ambassadors are an active community of students from around the world who are passionate about education's potential and want to be a part of its change together. Each year HundrED selects 100 young change makers

from around the world and highlights their voice throughout research projects, global surveys and community events.

"In addition to my educational qualifications, I received this opportunity because of my leadership skills, flair for public speaking, for winning several international awards, due to my interest to protect nature and make the world a better place for everyone. This organization works to protect the education and new innovations of children all over the world and to protect the environment," Yenuli explained.

She hopes to serve the children and youth of Sri Lanka through her new-found status. She also wishes to expand her work towards preserving the environment.

"If we want the world to be beautiful, then we must protect our environment and help every child get a good education. That includes poor children, orphans, disabled children, and all the other children who do not go to school due to various illnesses. I wish to help them move forward while encouraging other talented children and youth towards joining the innovation sector in the country," she expressed.

Yenuli says that all the encouragement and support she got from those around her were her pillars of strength. She is grateful to the Ambassador of Sri Lanka to the Sultanate of Oman O L Ameer Ajwad for his sup-

port. She is also thankful to the principal and all the teachers in Sri Lankan School, Muscat, for the roles they played to motivate her.

"A big thank you goes out to Manuja Kalugampitiya, Jayasri Wijeratne and the Siyatha TV staff, Santhusa Liyanage, Alagiyawanna and the Rupavahini staff, Upeksha Geethal, the Lake House staff members, and all the other journalists who guide me and back me up on my ventures," she said.

"Aspire to learn. Education plays the most important role in moulding your future. Strive to make environmentally-friendly innovations. Be active in your environment conservation projects. Start from your home, school and community. If we start small and expand our wings gradually, it would not be difficult to witness the beautiful world we all wish to possess. Please join hands with me and be a part of making a difference. By joining many little, yet good, attitudes together, we can make great changes in the world," she opined with a smile.



With the State Council Chairman, Sultanate of Oman, Dr Yahya bin Mahfoudh al Mantheri and Ambassador of Sri Lanka to the Sultanate of Oman Omar Lebbe Ameerajwad



Ambassador of Sri Lanka to the Sultanate of Oman O L Ameer Ajwad receiving the first CD of an online song launched by Yenuli Binara



Performing 'Wake Up Mom'

A butterfly



Dahami Fonseka,
Grade 3,
Gateway College,
Ratmalana



Day and night



Fizka Ahmed,
Grade 7,
Jennings International College,
Nainamadama

Flying kites



Sapumal Tennakon,
Grade 6,
St. Peter's College,
Colombo 4

MY GARDEN

My garden
My garden is beautiful.
There are nice flowers.
There is a big mango tree.
My mother planted little bushes in the garden. Butterflies and birds come to my garden. The anthuriums are beautiful. The temple flowers are beautiful and sweet-smelling.
I love my garden.
Senuri Gunawardana,
Grade 1,
Methodist College,
Colombo



EDUCATION

Education is the act of learning things around us. It helps us to easily understand and deal with any problem and makes balance throughout the whole life in every aspect. Education is the first and foremost right of every human being. Without education we are incomplete and our lives are useless. Education helps us to set a goal and go ahead by working on that goal throughout the life. It improves our knowledge, skill, confidence level and personality. It empowers us intellectually to interact with others in our life. Education brings maturity and teaches us to live in society with the changing environment. It is the way to social development, economic growth and technological development.

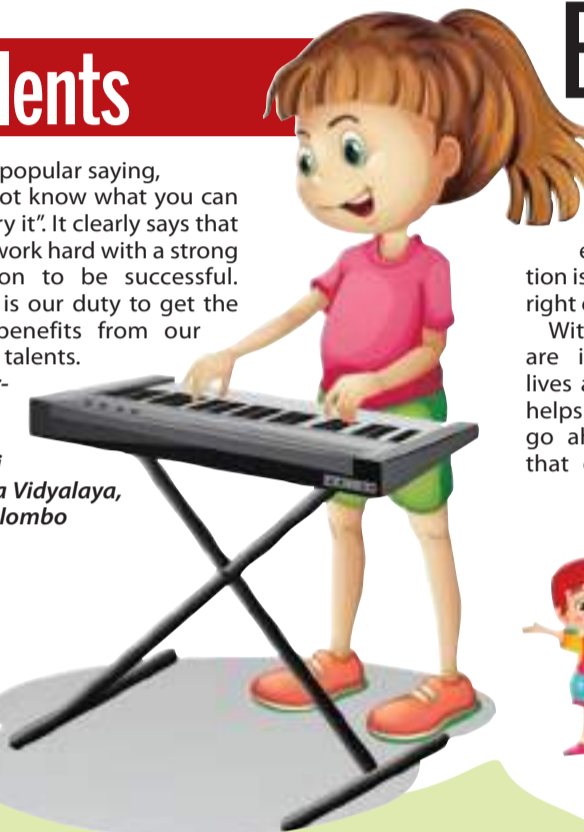
Dinuli Rajapaksha,
Grade 2,
Lyceum International School,
Ratnapura

Abilities and talents

Different people have different abilities in this world. Some people are good at their studies while some are good in aesthetic activities such as music, dancing, painting and drama etc. Some of them have abilities and talents for sports and technical activities. The most important thing is we have to identify our abilities and talents as early as possible in our life. If you can identify your true potential then you can succeed in it.

There is a popular saying, "You do not know what you can do, till you try it". It clearly says that we have to work hard with a strong determination to be successful. Therefore it is our duty to get the maximum benefits from our abilities and talents.

Enuri Barret,
Grade 9,
Gothami Balika Maha Vidyalaya,
Colombo



Parents and children

If we realise the hardships of our parents we can be frugal in our economics and in various other matters. Let us study and progress with zeal and sacrifice. It is not enough for children to understand their parents. Parents need to understand their children and give them everything they need. Children understand their parents only if their parents understand them. Consider this. We learn that children need to be aware of their parents' plight and that parents need to understand their children.



Arshad Amani,
7 G,
Badhuriya Central College,
Mawanella

Peradeniya Botanical Garden

The Peradeniya Botanical Garden is situated in Peradeniya, Kandy. It is on the Kandy Colombo main road. It was made in 1921. It is about 147 acres in extent. It is one of the oldest botanical gardens in Sri Lanka. The Mahaweli river borders the Peradeniya Botanical Garden. It adds beauty to the garden. Thousands of visitors come to this garden every day. It is a main tourist attraction in Sri Lanka.

The garden is home to many plants and trees. The plants and trees are nicely arranged. There are over 4,000 labelled trees in the garden. There are giant bamboo, roses, orchids, cactus etc. There are memorial trees too. They attract the visitors. A visitor can have a good knowledge of different plants and trees. Many students visit this garden to learn about them. This botanical garden is a very attractive place in Sri Lanka.

Methupama Wijerathne,
Grade 8,
Holy Cross College,
Gampaha



SCHOOL EQUIPMENT FOR EVERYONE

Text and pictures by:
IL RIZAN,
Addalaichenai Central Corr

Kalmunai Rahmath donated school equipment to students from Sainthamaruthu, Mawadipalli, Islamabath and Veeramunai areas in the Ampara district at Kalmunai recently. The event was held as part of their annual welfare events. Kalmunai Rahmath Foundation President and Kalmunai Municipality Deputy Mayor Rahmath Mansoor distributed the equipment. Hundreds of students benefited through this event. This social organization has donated water tanks to religious organizations in the area and



helped get drinking water supply connection to individuals. Private Secretary to the Parliamentarian H M M Harees Nowfer A Bawa, former Kalmunai Municipal Council Members PvT Jamaldeen and A Cnl Samaldeen, Sri Lanka Muslim Congress (SLMC) Central Camp Organizer Nazaari Hajji and others were present.



Free treats

Text and pictures by
M U M SANON,
Puttalam TKN Corr

Friends NGO has been providing school equipment to low-income students for the past few years. At the end of 2020, 60 students from Wannithivillu Divisional Secretariat, 65 students from Puttalam Divisional Secretariat and seven students selected from Puttalam District have been provided with school equipment packs. A total number of 132 students have benefitted through this programme. These gifts were recently handed over to the selected students at the Puttalam District Secretariat and Divisional Secretariat auditoriums.



My friend Ben

My best friend Ben,
Is as fat as a hen,
He sat on a bench,
And broke the fence.
He needed five chairs to sit,
But he couldn't even fit.
His clothes were tight,
And it wasn't right.

Awab Rizan,
Grade 4,
Gateway College,
Kandy





'AVATAR' beats 'AVENGERS'!



Director James Cameron's 'Avatar' has claimed its box office throne, as the highest-grossing film of all time, overtaking Marvel's 'Avengers: Endgame'.

This comes in nearly two years after the Marvel superhero film created box office history by grossing an estimated USD 2.797 billion. 'Avatar', which re-released in China on Friday added another USD 12.3 million to its overall haul in the first two days, thus taking its worldwide gross to an estimated USD 2.802 billion.

'Endgame' took the first spot on the box office board in 2019 when it beat Cameron's 1997 film 'Titanic' which held the top spot for over a decade with an estimated global collection of USD 2.194 billion. "An iceberg sank the real Titanic. It took The Avengers to sink my Titanic. Everyone here at Lightstorm Entertainment salutes your amazing achievement. You've shown that the movie industry is not only alive and well, it's bigger than ever," Cameron said in a post, congratulating the entire Marvel team.

Reciprocating the love and best wishes to the director on reclaiming the box office

throne, the Russo Brothers shared an artwork and said, "Passing the gauntlet back to you... @jamescameronofficial."

The official Marvel social media handle also posted a video of giving the Avengers logo an Avatar twist. "Congratulations to James Cameron, Jon Landau, and ALL of Na'vi Nation for reclaiming the box office crown! We love you 3000," read the caption.

Cameron reacted to the post by sharing it on his official handle and captioned it with a blue heart emoji.

According to reports, the surge in 'Avatar' ticket sales comes as China theatres are reopening after the COVID-19 pandemic. The move to re-release films has seen a rush of theatregoers eager to return to cinema halls.

There is no confirmation if the Marvel team will re-release 'Avengers: Endgame' to reclaim the top spot. In the meantime, Cameron is gearing up to bring 'Avatar 2' to theatres shortly. The film's release was delayed owing to the covid-19 restrictions that forced the makers to delay the release of the film and its sequels.

PTI

Fans want Depp back for 'Pirates 6'

If you have been following along Johnny Depp's highly publicized personal and career life lately, you probably know that the Pirates of the Caribbean actor has been under heavy fire in the media as of late. After losing his (arguably) most iconic role of Jack Sparrow in the Pirates of the Caribbean franchise, fans rushed to the actor's side!

If there is one thing that the Johnny Depp controversy has proven to be true, it is that fans hold a lot more power than some may think! Once the allegations against Mr. Depp came out from ex-wife Amber Heard (Aquaman), Depp was locked in a libel case battle reading domestic abuse claims made in a U.K. tabloid newspaper calling him a "wife beater", on top of a \$150 million court case lawsuit between the ex-couple.

All of the negative press caused the Pirates actor to step down from his role as Gellert Grindelwald in Warner Bros. Harry Potter spin off Fantastic Beasts 3. Mads Mikkelsen is currently set to take over Depp's character in the Fantastic Beasts franchise. After that, Disney announced the Pirates of the Caribbean would carry on the franchise sans Mr. Depp, and that set off quite the storm for fans.

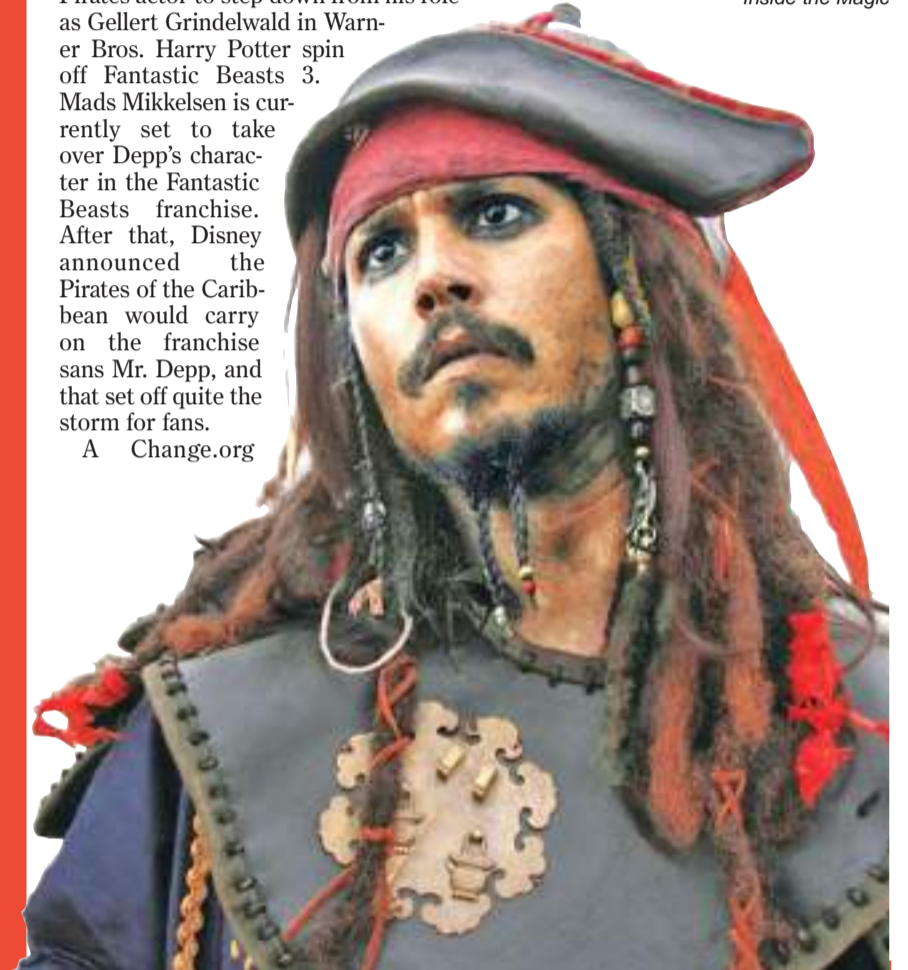
A Change.org

petition came to fruition where fans were banning together to publicly show their support for Depp. The petition entitled "We want Johnny Depp back as Captian Jack Sparrow" quickly gained traction with hundreds of thousands of supporters signing on.

The goal for the petition was 500,000 signatures, and now, that petition has surpassed that. The petition has even set a new goal for itself, which is to hit 1,000,000 signatures, and considering Johnny Depp's dedicated fanbase, the number is quite realistic.

For now, however, although Depp does not seem to currently be confirmed to reenter the Pirates franchise through film, Disney has not given any indication that the Depp-inspired Jack Sparrow animatronic will be removed from the theme park attractions or that the character will no longer appear at the parks.

Inside the Magic



It's back to work for new mother Kareena



It's been about two weeks since Kareena Kapoor Khan gave birth to her second child and she's already back to work. The actress took to her Instagram to share her latest look and asked her adoring fans and followers to guess whether she was going to pick balayage or go full blonde. Kapoor Khan shared a picture of her trusted hair expert, Gianni Tsapatori and wrote "Gangsta maestro @yianitsapatori at work today." The actress had taken a short break from Instagram following the birth of her child but made a comeback on

March 1st with a cheeky "oh hello there . . . missed you all". Kapoor Khan also made a public appearance with her husband, Saif Ali Khan on Tuesday. The couple were reportedly looking to buy a new SUV.

It isn't surprising to see Kapoor Khan so out and about. The reigning diva has worked through her pregnancy and even accompanied her husband to Dharamshala where he was shooting for Bhoot Police. "No, there has never been any plan that I have to do this or that. It's just that I have never been that kind of a person who

would sit at home and say, 'Now I want to put my feet up'. I am doing what I want to do. Working - whether it's during my pregnancy or post-delivery - has been a point to just say that when has anyone ever said that pregnant women can't work? In fact, the more active you are, the healthier the baby is and the happier

the mother is. After delivery, too, once you feel fit enough, one should do what they feel like doing, and try to balance it out between giving time to the child as well as your work and yourself. I have always been very proud of being a working mother," the actress had told a leading daily.

Filmfare

SPIELBERG TO HELM FILM BASED ON HIS CHILDHOOD

Oscar-winning filmmaker Steven Spielberg is set to direct a film that will be loosely based on his own childhood growing up in Arizona. American actor Michelle Williams is in talks to star in the untitled film in a major role.

As per report, the iconic filmmaker co-wrote the script with Tony Kushner, who previously worked with the director on movies such as 'Munich' and 'Lincoln'.

Several screen tests are being conducted to find young actors of multiple ages to round out the cast, and one of them will play the role inspired by a young Spielberg. There are not many plot details available for the film, other than that it will focus on the main character, who is not named Steven, as a young child and teen.

The protagonist will be



living in Phoenix, Arizona, which is where Spielberg lived in the late 1950s and early 1960s. The film will also examine the character's relationship with his parents and be split across time periods. The untitled drama is said to be loosely based on the filmmaker's formative years and by his

relationship with his parents. The film is slated to begin production this summer, with a release date planned for sometime in 2022. Williams, who is in negotiations, is said to be playing the mother while a range of a dozen or so teen and kid roles, two of them leading, are being sought.

'West Side Story' is Spielberg's next film, due on December 10, 2021, after being delayed from its original release date of December 18, 2020, due to the coronavirus pandemic.

The upcoming movie adaptation of the iconic Broadway musical stars Ansel Elgort and Rachel Zegler as Tony and Maria. Ariana Debose, David Alvarez, Mike Faist, Corey Stoll, Brian d'Arcy James, Rita Moreno, and Curtiss Cook are also cast members.

Meanwhile, Williams will reprise her role in the Sony supervillain sequel 'Venom: Let There Be Carnage,' in addition to starring in Todd Haynes' 'Fever' and Kelly Reichardt's 'Showing Up.'

She won an Emmy and Golden Globe for playing Gwen Verdon in 'Fosse/Verdon' and is a four-time Oscar nominee.

ANI

Traveling to European locations next



Actor Dhanush had flown to the US for his upcoming Hollywood flick 'The Gray Man' directed by filmmaker duo Anthony and Joe Russo. It is known that Dhanush will be sharing screen space with Ryan Gosling and Chris Evans, among others, in the Hollywood film. While the shooting of the film is currently happening in California, the latest is that the team will wrap up the shooting in California in April and will move to European locations next.

Reports are the shooting of the film is expected to happen in Prague and the Czech Republic. It is also said that since Prague is one of a number of European locations in the film, not all cast members may shoot in the Czech Republic. It needs to be seen if Dhanush will be a part of the team that heads to the European locations.

The film is an action thriller based on the debut novel by Mark Greaney. It's said that Dhanush might most probably be playing the head of one of the teams that is after freelance assassin and former CIA operative Court Gentry played by Ryan Gosling.

'The Gray Man' to be directed by filmmaker duo Anthony and Joe Russo also has popular Hollywood actor Ryan Gosling and Chris Evans. The star cast also includes Wagner Moura, Julia Butters and Jessica Henwick.

TNN

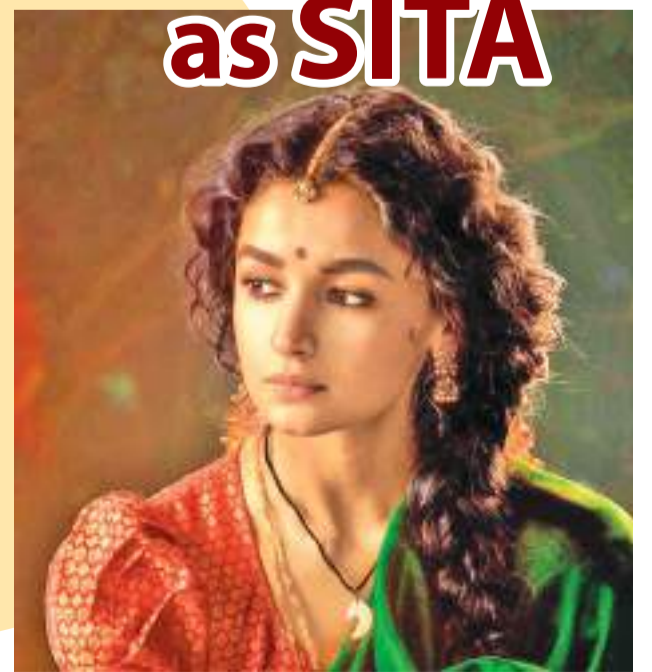
Alia Bhatt is on a roll. The actress who has consistently delivered

hits after hits and has been appreciated for her performance, is all set to star in SS Rajamouli's RRR. The official Twitter handle of the film has announced that Bhatt's first look as Sita was revealed on Monday. "Meet our #Sita in all her glory. First look of @Aliaa08 revealed on March 15, 11 AM. #RRRMovie #RRR @ssrajamouli @tarak9999 @AlwaysRamCharan @ajaydevgn @oliviarmorris891 @DVMovies," the handle tweeted.

Bhatt also has Gangubai Kathiawadi and Brahmastra lined up. Gangubai Kathiawadi is being directed by Sanjay Leela Bhansali and tells the tale of one of Kamathipura's most-feared madams. In the Ayan Mukerji directed Brahmastra, Bhatt will share the screen with Amitabh Bachchan and Ranbir Kapoor.

Filmfare

First look as SITA





Former First Lady Shiranthi Rajapaksa walks in



ISHARA JAYAWARDANE
Are you looking for current, chic and trendy clothes ideal for any occasion? Then your prayers have been answered! NUMA is a new concept store that is Nithiesha Jayasekara's and one that has newly opened.
 It is a store that offers a wide range of elegant and beautiful clothes that can really enhance your individuality and allow you to walk into any room with confidence. The reason is that these clothes have real style and individuality.
 The chief guest former First Lady Shiranthi Rajapaksa attended the opening of the store and seemed to be extremely impressed by the diversity and the richness that she saw. NUMA definitely has the potential to become a venue that will be frequented by the fashion conscious individuals in Colombo.
 It is located at 260, Torrington Avenue Colombo 7.

Pictures by Nirosh Batepola



Former First Lady Shiranthi Rajapaksa being greeted by Nithiesha

Chief Guest Former First Lady Shiranthi Rajapaksa looks at clothes on display

ELEGANT to the CORE



Various items on display



Stylish and elegant



Ideal for any occasion

Kitchen & Bedroom opens second showroom and re-launches website



Former First Lady Shiranthi Rajapaksa (Left) and State Minister Ajith Nivaard Cabraal seen here at the Kitchen & Bedroom's Colombo-5 showroom

Kitchen & Bedroom based in Dehiwala is ambitious about taking its business to greater heights. It opened its second showroom at Colombo 5, and is now planning to establish a state-of-the-art manufacturing factory in Colombo which will be fully equipped with modern machineries to bring out some of the best designed furniture optimized with purpose and functionality, complementing today's contemporary kitchenette and bedroom spaces. Kitchen and Bedroom also recently revamped its online presence, accessible via www.kandb.lk.

The new factory will be a dedicated manufacturing facility for artificial wood products such as furniture, interiors and other wooden accessories as well as indoor and outdoor architectural and decorative applications. The facility itself will be structured in an ecofriendly manner with high-tech machinery inclusive of dust collectors to mitigate environmental impact.

'Kitchen & Bedroom remains environmentally responsible by manufacturing products that are durable, versatile and non-toxic and the manufacturing of artificial wooden products promotes sustainable construction with wood replacement.

The new factory planned underway will make way for us to further expand and open up new horizons,' said Mohammed Rushmi Sacquaff, CEO-Kitchen & Bedroom.

The establishment of the proposed facility supports the Government's measure to reduce imports including the ban on imported furniture prod-

ucts and easing pressure on foreign exchange rates by introducing locally manufactured, high quality wood replacement furniture.

The factory will provide job opportunities for skilled labor, and will also cater to the export market with a view to support Sri Lanka's efforts in economy revival.

'Winning customers' hearts for a lifetime is a philosophy we embrace here at Kitchen & Bedroom. Many of our new projects come from referrals and we continue to invest our efforts in championing these relationships. The specialty interior design industry in Sri Lanka is very attractive with tremendous potential for growth. Our appetite for growth is big,' Kitchen & Bedroom Director Fathima Zahara Mubarak added.

Contrary to traditional designers, Kitchen & Bedroom provides a full spectrum of interior design solutions that doesn't just fit the customer's requirements but also their pockets.

It provides consulting in how best they can optimize and minimize the manufacturing costs involved in the project, and ensures the deliverability of the project within the timeframe of 21 working days.

Their aftersales service is well commendable, reflecting upon various testimonials by satisfied customers.

Keeping in line with evolving trends in the market, Kitchen & Bedroom identifies the need to be minimalist-simpler and sleeker with less clutter.

They provide visiting, consulting and guidance sessions to customers completely free of charge, and provide complimentary 2D and 3D designs. -77

WNPS Youth Wing Creates largest mural to depict #Ecocide



Largest ecocide mural by the youth wing of WNPS

PAINTING FOR THE PLANET

The Youth Wing of the Wildlife and Nature Protection Society (WNPS) volunteers are attempting to depict the climate emergency in art by featuring a mural creating more awareness among the public on deforestation and the changing global climate. This will be the largest Ecocide mural in Sri Lanka and will be on display at the Viharamahadevi Park, opposite Nelum Pokuna Roundabout, on the 19th of March. This event is conducted in solidarity with the Global Climate Strike 'Fridays for Future'; various creative forms that include dance, art, and theatrical performances will depict the current plight of Mother Nature.

A movement started by a 15-year-old girl in Sweden, Greta Thunberg, has now gone viral globally as the cause resonated with the world. Hence, on March 19, millions of activists worldwide will be stepping out to the streets demanding governments to take seriously matters related to Climate Change and ensure proper evaluation and monitoring of all development activities. As Sri Lankans that reap multiple benefits from our diverse ecosystems, we need to stand against ecocide and deforestation in our country.

Ecocide is an umbrella term used for human activities that violate environmental justice principles by substantially damaging or destroying ecosystems or harming the health and well-being of life found within them. Formed to reflect the word



A common site around our country that needs to be halted

genocide, the term ecocide is powerfully evocative. The term originated in the aftermath of the Vietnam War when biologist Arthur W. Galston used it to denounce the United States Army's use of a particularly toxic defoliant known as Agent Orange.

Join the WNPS Youth Wing, Rally for Animal Rights and Environment (RARE), Extinction Rebellion (XR) Sri Lanka, The Pearl Protectors, Earth Guardians Sri Lanka, and Climate Action Now Sri Lanka on March 19 at Viharamahadevi Park, Nelum Pokuna roundabout from 4 pm to 6 pm to express your solidarity to stand against the rampant deforestation taking place around our country.



Fine-tuning



Starting young



Youth coming together to express their views



For first time in over 60 years

Cuba, without a Castro in power



In 2018, Raul Castro (R) ceded the Cuban Presidency to Miguel Diaz-Canel.

CUBA: Cuba will emerge from the April Congress of its all-powerful Communist Party without a Castro at the helm for the first time in over 60 years. And while the country is unlikely to abandon its military, socialist approach to government any time soon, observers expect some nods, albeit meek ones, to economic modernization and social liberalization in future. The country's de-facto leader, Raul Castro, 89, is handing over the reins after 13 years in the seat he inherited from his revolutionary leader brother Fidel, who was in charge for almost 50 years before that. In Cuba's one-party system, the Castros have consecutively held the top position in the Communist Party and the country – that of first secretary – since 1959. The first secretary is more powerful than the president – a position both Castros also held. Then in 2018, Raul Castro ceded the Cuban Presidency to Miguel Diaz-Canel, a major shift for the country that still largely sees Fidel Castro as its revolutionary father and savior. In a shuffle of the top brass that has long been sewn up, Diaz-Canel will become the first non-Castro elected first secretary at the party's five-yearly congress to be held in Havana from April 16 to 19. This will see Castro officially enter retirement and voluntarily give up any

claim to political power. A new constitution adopted in May 2019 with almost 80 percent approval among eligible voters 18 and older, states that the country's commitment to socialism was "irreversible." Yet, there are signs of change to come. Sixty-year-old Diaz-Canel, like many other members of the party's new decision-making politbureau, was born after the Cuban revolution led by Fidel Castro, who died in 2016. And the new executive team "will have the task of building its own legitimacy, which could come from a political project that brings economic prosperity and social justice to Cuba," said Michael Shifter of the Inter-American Dialogue think tank in Washington DC. The party has said next month's congress would have to reflect on how to better deal with "political-ideological subversion" on social media. The country's direction will also largely be shaped by Cuba's relationship with the United States. President Joe Biden had promised during his election campaign to reverse certain sanctions toughened under his predecessor Donald Trump. "The United States determines, directly and indirectly, a large part of what happens (in Cuba) even the decisions taken by Cuban leaders," said Cuban political analyst Harold Cardenas. The bulk of the 280 sanctions Washington has in place against Havana targets enterprises managed by Cuba's powerful and omnipresent military. Conversely, if American hostility continues, "the military will have the perfect justification to continue to play a predominant role in the country's politics and economy," said Cuba expert Arturo Lopez-Levy of the Holy Names University in California. - AFP



A man touches the photo of Fidel Castro who is widely hailed as Cuba's revolutionary father and saviour.

Mars' 'missing' water is buried beneath surface - Study

US: Billions of years ago, Mars was home to lakes and oceans – but where all the water went to transform the planet into the desolate rock we know today has been something of a mystery. Most of it was thought to have been lost to space, but a new study funded by NASA proposes that it didn't go anywhere but is trapped within minerals in the crust. "We're saying that the crust forms what we call hydrated minerals, so min-

erals that actually have water in their crystal structure," Eva Scheller, lead author of the new paper in Science, told AFP. In fact, Scheller's model suggests anywhere between 30 - 99 percent of the initial water remains trapped inside these minerals. Early Mars was thought to have enough water to cover the whole planet in roughly 100 to 1,500 metres (330 to 4,920 feet) of ocean. Because the planet lost

its magnetic field early in its history, its atmosphere was progressively stripped away, and it was assumed this was how it lost its water. But the authors of the new study believe that while some of the water did disappear, the majority remained. Using observations made by Mars rovers as well as of meteorites from the planet, the team focused on hydrogen, a key component of water. - AFP



A new study funded by Nasa proposes that the water is trapped within minerals in the crust.

British Police officer remanded over woman's kidnap and murder

UK: A British Police officer was remanded in custody when he appeared in court on Tuesday charged with the kidnap and murder of a woman who vanished as she walked home. The disappearance of Sarah Everard sparked outrage and a national debate on women's safety in public places, prompting the government to promise enhanced police patrols at night and funding to make the streets safer. London police are also under pressure after they broke up a vigil for Everard on Saturday, with widely shared footage showing mostly male officers struggling with and restraining female protesters. Wayne Couzens, 48, appeared via video link in London's Old Bailey court to face charges of kidnap and murder of Everard, a 33-year-old marketing executive who went missing in south London on March 3. Couzens, who serves with the diplomatic protection unit of London's police force, spoke only to confirm his name and date of birth. A plea hearing is due to be held on July 9 and a provisional trial date has been set for October 25. Everard had been visiting



Posters alerting the public to missing British woman Sarah Everard were seen earlier this week in London. Police have not said whether Everard and the police officer who was arrested in connection with her death were acquainted. friends in the Clapham area of south London and was returning to her home in nearby Brixton. Her body was discovered a week later in woods in the southeastern county of Kent, some 80 kilometres (50 miles) away. An official cause of death has not yet been given. - AFP

Harry phones Charles, William after bitter TV interview

US: Prince Harry has spoken to his father and brother after he and his wife Meghan Markle raised allegations of racism in the royal family during an explosive TV interview, a friend said Tuesday. In the interview, Harry said that his father Prince Charles had cut him off financially and at one point stopped taking his calls, and he also described his damaged relationship with Prince William. Harry and Meghan, whose father is white and mother is Black, now live

in California after stepping away from royal duties. The British monarchy has been rocked by the couple's allegations that an unnamed royal asked how dark their child's skin would be before he was born. "I did actually call them to see how they were feeling, and it's true Harry has talked to his brother and he has talked to his father too," Gayle King, a US television presenter and friend of the couple, said on CBS. "The word I was given was that those conversa-



Charles, William and Harry. Meghan had "documents to back up everything" she had said in the interview with Oprah Winfrey. - AFP

Lightning may have sparked life on Earth - Study

FRANCE: Lightning strikes may have supplied primordial Earth with enough phosphorus to support the emergence of life, according to new research Tuesday that offered an alternative explanation as to how living organisms were born. Phosphorus is a vital building block of life as we know it, forming basic cell structures and the double helix shape of DNA and RNA. Billions of years ago on early Earth, most of the available phosphorus was locked away in insoluble minerals. However one mineral, schreibersite, is highly reactive and produces phosphorus capable of forming organic molecules. Since most schreibersite on Earth comes from meteorites, the emergence of life here has long been thought to be tied to the arrival of extraterrestrial rocks. But schreibersite is also contained within the glass-like rock

formed by lightning strikes in some types of clay-rich soils. Researchers in the US and Britain used state of the art image techniques to analyse the amount of the phosphorus-giving mineral formed in each lightning strike. They then estimated how much schreibersite could have been produced over the eons before and around the time of the emergence of life on Earth, around 3.5 billion years ago. "Lightning strikes on early Earth may have provided a significant amount of reduced phosphorus," Benjamin Hess, lead study author from Yale's Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences, told AFP. "And by synthesising the best of our knowledge of the conditions of early Earth, I think our results bear out this hypothesis." Writing in the journal Nature Communications, Hess and his colleagues estimated that lightning strikes could have produced



An artist's rendition of the early Earth environment. Here, the phosphorus is able to form biomolecules which help lead to the emergence of life.

between 110 and 11,000 kilograms of phosphorus a year. Using simulations of the climate on early Earth, they said that while meteor strikes began to decline after the Moon was formed 4.5 billion years ago, lightning strikes surpassed space rocks for phosphorus production around 3.5 billion years ago. That timing coincides with the origin of life. - AFP

UK looks to Asia in post-Brexit foreign policy overhaul

UK: Britain unveiled plans Tuesday to pivot its strategic focus towards Asia, counter Russian threats and bolster its nuclear stockpile, in one of the biggest overhauls of security, defence and foreign policy since the Cold War era. The conclusions of the government's so-called Integrated Review, crafted over the past year as London recalibrates its post-Brexit foreign policy, include labelling China a "systemic competitor". The document – entitled "Global Britain in a Competitive Age" – identifies Russia as the "most acute direct threat to the UK" which poses "the full spectrum" of dangers. It also notably announces an increase to Britain's nuclear arsenal, reversing a previous commitment to reduce the stockpile to 180 warheads by pledging to increase it to 260 by the end of the decade, "in recognition of the evolving security environment". "The overriding pur-

pose of this review – the most comprehensive since the Cold War – is to make the United Kingdom stronger, safer and more prosperous while standing up for our values," Prime Minister Boris Johnson told parliament. "(It) describes how we will bolster our alliances, strengthen our capabilities, find new ways of reaching solutions and relearn the art of competing against states with opposing values." In a foreword to the review, Johnson stated that Britain, which formally left the European Union last year, would look to "enjoy constructive and productive relationships" with remaining bloc members. But he added the Brexit divorce deal agreed with Brussels "gives us the freedom to do things differently and better, both economically and politically". The review emerges as Britain seeks to reaffirm its much touted "special relationship" with the



A British Naval Officer looks up at the fluttering White Ensign flag hoisted at the stern of the Royal Navy aircraft carrier HMS Queen Elizabeth at HM Naval Base in Portsmouth, southern England.

United States under new President Joe Biden, despite Johnson's close alignment with Donald Trump. Johnson told MPs that Washington remained London's "greatest ally" and the UK was "unswervingly committed" to NATO. But the report identifies the Indo-Pacific region – including Asian powers

such as India, Japan and South Korea, as well as emerging economies like Indonesia and Vietnam – as "critical" to Britain's economy, security and global ambitions. While the UK has already applied for partner status at the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), Johnson is due to make his first post-EU visit to India in April.

The review noted that China's power and international assertiveness would likely be the most significant geopolitical factor of the decade. The review paints a more pessimistic outlook for relations with Russia, which Britain blames for killing one former KGB spy and the attempted murder of another with a weapons-grade nerve agent in 2018, both on British soil. - AFP



A man with his face covered with a cloth waits for a transportation at a bus stop amid the ongoing COVID-19 coronavirus disease pandemic, in Hyderabad, India. - AFP



A man plays an accordion next to an empty hotel bed during a protest campaign "The Last Business Dinner" in front of the government building in Vilnius, Lithuania. - AFP

FIGHTING THE PANDEMIC



Picture of an almost empty street in Sao Paulo, Brazil, hours before a night-time curfew was declared in the state of Sao Paulo amid the COVID-19 pandemic. - AFP



US Vice President Kamala Harris watches as UNLV medical student Mailani Thompson gives a COVID-19 vaccine to a woman at the University of Nevada in Las Vegas. - AFP



Greek puppet theatre artists march with a giant puppet bearing the slogan "I'm not afraid of bad wolves" during a demonstration of artists against the restrictions and the Government's policies to deal with the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic in Athens. - AFP



A vendor arranges medical oxygen cylinders at his workplace in Rawalpindi on Monday as COVID-19 coronavirus cases continue to rise. - AFP



A nurse arrives in an elevator as Palestinians wait to receive a dose of Russia's Sputnik V COVID-19 vaccine at the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA)'s Sheikh Redwan clinic in Gaza City on Monday. - AFP



Patients sit in an observation (bottom) area after receiving the Pfizer COVID-19 during opening day of the Community Vaccination Site at the Lumen Field Event Center in Seattle, Washington. - AFP



Leister Soon adding fertiliser to an anthurium crystallinum plant in his home in Kuala Lumpur. - Learning to tell your elephant ears from your flamingo flowers has become the latest virus lockdown escape in Malaysia, where houseplants are very much in season. - AFP



A city employee disinfects a street while food vendors stand by at an informal settlers area in Manila, the Philippines on Monday as the number of new daily cases of COVID-19. - AFP



Workers clean the exterior of Bang Khae Market, after more than a hundred residents in the district tested positive for the COVID-19 in Bangkok on Monday. - AFP

PROCUREMENT NOTICE**COLOMBO EAST BASE HOSPITAL****MULLERIYAWA NEW TOWN**

Chairman, Procurement Committee of Colombo East Base Hospital invites quotations for the purchase of following office equipment.

01. COMPUTER	15
02. UPS	19
03. LASER PRINTER	06
04. DOT MATRIX PRINTER LQ 310	01
05. DOT MATRIX LQ 2090 PRINTER	01
06. PHOTOCOPY MACHINE	02
07. SCANNER	02
08. LAPTOP	01

Receiving of Bids will be closed at 10.00 a.m. on 08.04.2021.

Bids will be opened at 10.00 a.m. on 08.04.2021.

Bid documents relevant to this Procurement Notice will be issued on office days between 9.00 a.m. and 3.00 p.m. from the Office of Colombo East Base Hospital. A non-refundable fee of Rs. 1500.00 will be levied for the above Bid.

**Chairman,
Regional Procurement Committee,
Colombo East Base Hospital,
Mulleriyawa New Town.**

PROCUREMENT NOTICE**[INVITATION FOR BIDS]**

State Ministry of Women and Child Development, Pre-School & Primary Education, School Infrastructure & Education Services.

Procurement of Aesthetic Instrument for National Schools - 2021

IFB No: (MWCDS/ED/PRO/02/2)

- The Chairman, State Ministry Procurement Committee on behalf of the State Ministry of Women and Child Development, Pre-School & Primary Education, School Infrastructure & Education Services now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for supply of Aesthetic Instrument for National Schools for 2021. Complete details may be seen in the bidding document. Bidders may quote one or more items of the Bid. Expected delivery period is 08 to 10 weeks for each item.
- Bidding will be conducted following National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedure.
- Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from the Procurement Division, State Ministry of Women and Child Development, Pre-School & Primary Education, School Infrastructure & Education Services, 06th Floor, Wing D, Sethsiripaya Stage II, Battaramulla and inspect the bidding documents (free of charge) from 9.00 a.m. to 3.30 p.m. on all working days.
- A complete set of Bidding Documents in English language may be purchased by interested bidders till 06th April 2021. (from 9.00 am to 3.00 pm), on submission of a written application to the address above and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Rs. 2000/= .The method of payment will be by cash.
- Bids must be delivered to Procurement Division, State Ministry of Women and Child Development, Pre-School & Primary Education, School Infrastructure & Education Services, Battaramulla, at or before 2.00 p.m. on 07th April 2021. Late bids will be rejected unopened. Bids will be opened immediately thereafter in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend in person at the given address at 2.00 p.m. on 07th April 2021. All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security Declaration.

Telephone: 0113611110 Fax: 0112187255

**Secretary,
State Ministry of Women and Child Development,
Pre-School & Primary Education, School Infrastructure & Education Services.**

17.03.2021

PROCUREMENT NOTICE**[INVITATION FOR BIDS]**

State Ministry of Women and Child Development, Pre-School & Primary Education, School Infrastructure & Education Services.

Procurement of Chemicals for National Schools - 2021

IFB No: (MWCDS/ED/PRO/02/1)

- The Chairman, Ministry Procurement Committee on behalf of the State Ministry of Women and Child Development, Pre-School & Primary Education, School Infrastructure & Education Services now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for supply of Chemicals for National Schools for 2021. Complete details may be seen in the bidding document. Bidders shall bid for all the items in each lot. Expected delivery period is 08 to 10 weeks for each item.

Type	Amount of the Bid Security / Rs.
Lot A - Chemicals	100,000.00
Lot B - Chemicals	20,000.00

- Bidding will be conducted following National Competitive Bidding (NCB) Procedure.
- Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from the Procurement Division, State Ministry of Women and Child Development, Pre-School & Primary Education, School Infrastructure & Education Services, 06th Floor, Wing D, Sethsiripaya Stage II, Battaramulla and inspect the bidding documents (free of charge) from 09.00 a.m. to 03.30 p.m. on all working days.
- A complete set of Bidding Documents in English language may be purchased by interested bidders till 06th April 2021. (from 9.00 am to 3.00 pm), on the submission of a written application to the address above and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Rs. 2000/= .The method of payment will be cash.
- Bids must be delivered to Procurement Division, State Ministry of Women and Child Development, Pre-School & Primary Education, School Infrastructure & Education Services, Battaramulla, on or before 01.00 p.m. on 07th April 2021. Late bids will be rejected unopened. Bids will be opened immediately thereafter in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend in person at the given address at 01.00 p.m. on 07th April 2021. All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security according to the above table.

Telephone: 0113611110 Fax: 0112187255

**Secretary,
State Ministry of Women and Child Development,
Pre-School & Primary Education, School Infrastructure & Education Services.**

17.03.2021

**INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)**

(GOSL FUNDED PROJECTS)

MINISTRY PROCUREMENT COMMITTEE**ROAD CONSTRUCTION WORKS FOR PROPOSED AGRICULTURE AND FOOD PROCESSING ZONE (ZONE "B") IN ELPITIYA - GALLE DISTRICT**

CONTRACT NO: MPC/2021/02

- The Chairman, Ministry Procurement Committee on behalf of the Secretary of the **State Ministry of Development of Minor Crops including Sugarcane, Maize, Cashew, Pepper, Cinnamon, Cloves, Betel Related Industries and Export Promotion** now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for **Road Construction Works for Proposed Agriculture and, Food Processing Zone (Zone "B") in Elpitiya - Galle District** as described below.
The works include **Road construction work with cut and fill of earth including RCC culverts. The Construction period is 180 Calendar Days.**
- The bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedure.
- To be eligible for contract award, the successful bidder shall not have been blacklisted and shall meet the following requirements :
Specialty **Highway** Grade **C4 and above (CIDA)**
- Qualification requirements to qualify for contract award include:

Category	Qualification	Experience
Resident Engineer / TO Full time	NDT (Civil) or equivalent	10 Years

Experience in the similar type of construction of at least one contract which consists of Civil works during last 5 years (to comply with this requirement).
Average of the Annual volume of construction work performed in the last five years shall be at least **Rs.150 Million.**
- Interested bidders may obtain further information from the Chief Accountant of the Ministry, through his contact number 0112078811 during office hours and obtain a complete set of Bidding Documents in English language from the Accounts Division of the Ministry located at Battaramulla, from 18.03.2021 to 07.04.2021 during office days from 9.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Rs.35,000.00 made to the Shroff of the Ministry and producing the receipt.
- A Pre Bid meeting will be held at 10.00 a.m. on 29.03.2021 at the site.
- Bids shall be valid up to 91 Calendar Days from the date of closing of the Bid.
- All Bids shall be accompanied by a Bid Security of Rs. 2,500,000.00 and Bid Security shall be valid up to 120 Days from the date of closing of the bid. Bid Security shall be in the form of an Unconditional On Demand Bank Guarantee from a commercial bank operating in Sri Lanka approved by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka.
- Duly perfected Bids inserted in two separate covers as the '**Original**' and '**Duplicate**' marking the name and the number of the tender on the top left-hand corner should be enclosed in a single sealed envelope and submitted.
- Bids should either be sent to reach the "**Chairman, State Ministry of Development of Minor Crops including Sugarcane, Maize, Cashew, Pepper, Cinnamon, Cloves, Betel Related Industries and Export Promotion, 16th Floor, Suhurupaya, Battaramulla**" by Registered Post or hand delivered and deposited in the Tender Box kept at the Accounts Division of the Ministry on or before 2.00 p.m. on 08.04.2021. Bids received late and not duly perfected will be rejected. Bids will be opened at 2.05 p.m. on 08.04.2021. Bidders or their authorized representatives could be present at the time of Bids opening.
- The Ministry Procurement Committee / Ministry Secretary reserves the right to accept or reject all Bids or a part thereof.

**Chairman,
Ministry Procurement Committee,
State Ministry of Development of Minor Crops
including Sugarcane, Maize, Cashew, Pepper, Cinnamon, Cloves,
Betel Related Industries and Export Promotion,
16th Floor, Suhurupaya, Battaramulla.**

**DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA****MINISTRY OF TRADE****Invitation of Expression of interest from the suppliers for storing a security stock of rice for year 2021**

Ministry of Trade has decided on the instructions of the Minister of Trade to call for expression of interest from the suppliers from **18th March 2021 until 31st March 2021** with the intention of maintaining a buffer stock for rice. It is anticipated to supply this stock of rice at concessionary rates to the consumers via cooperatives and Lanka Sathosa Sales Outlets network after storing them in the Department of Food Commissioner's stores complex.

Applicants should send a self prepared application as mentioned below and the quote "**Invitation of Expression of Interest for Storing of Rice**" should be mentioned on the left hand top corner of the envelope containing the application.

- Full name of the Applicant
- Name of Institution / Company
- Registration Number of the Institution
- Address
- Telephone No. - Mobile No. /Office Telephone No. and Fax Number
- Email Address
- National Identity Card Number
- Varieties of Rice for which Expressions of Interest are submitted,
 - Samba
 - Nadu quantity and Proposals inclusive of Prices
- If you are an owner of a Rice Mill / Stores capacity of that Rice Mill and its address.

Self prepared applications may either be sent by registered post addressed to "**Administration Division, 5th Floor, Sathosa (CWE) Secretariat Building, Vauxhall Street, Colombo 02**" or hand delivered on government working days before 4.00 p.m. to reach on or before **31.03.2021**.

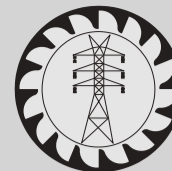
Applications received with proposals as at the specific date will be opened at **3.00 p.m. on 01.04.2021** at the 9th Floor of the CWE Secretariat Building located at the above mention address. When the Applicants who are submitting quotations should submit samples of the relevant rice stock for testing and should abide by the written conditions specified by the Ministry of Trade.

For further inquiries: Assistant Secretary (Administration) - Tel. No. 011-2304078 / 076-2566047.

**Secretary
Ministry of Trade
7th Floor,
CWE Secretariat Building,
No. 27, Vauxhall Street,
Colombo 02**

Date: 18.03.2021

INVITATION FOR BIDS



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இலங்கை மின்சார சபை
CEYLON ELECTRICITY BOARD

1	2	3	4	5	6
MATERIALS					
Division and Branch Province	Bid No. / Item Description & Quantity	Bid closing date & Time	Place of Purchase of Bidding Documents & Contact TP. Nos.	Price of the Bidding Document (Rs)	Type of Bid ICB/NCB
Generation Division (Lakvijaya Power Plant)	LV/S/2021/002 Selling of Metal Scraps –(Lakvijaya Power Plant – 2021)	07/04/2021 14.00 hrs.	Procurement Division, 4th Floor, Admin Building, Lakvijaya Power Plant, Ceylon Electricity Board, Narakkaliya, Norochcholai 61342 TP : 032 226 8972, 071-5777171, Fax: 032 226 8975	1,000.00	NCB
DD 01 (NP)	DGM/NP/CE (Com)/MP/T/2021/38 Tender for obtaining Janitorial & Cleaning Services to the Office of the Electrical Engineer (Distribution Maintenance) Vavuniya.	08/04/2021 14.00 hrs.	Deputy General Manager (NP) office, Ceylon Electricity Board, Old Park Road, Jaffna. T.P No: 021 222 2496	1,000.00	NCB
DD 01 (NP)	DGM/NP/CE (Com)/MP/T/2021/39 Tender for obtaining Janitorial & Cleaning Services to the Deputy General Manager (North) Office Complex, Jaffna	08/04/2021 14.00 hrs.	Same as above	1,000.00	NCB
DD 01 (NP)	DGM/NP/CE (Com)/MP/T/2021/40 Tender for obtaining Janitorial & Cleaning Services to the Electricity Consumer Service Centre, Ceylon Electricity Board, Jaffna City.	08/04/2021 14.00 hrs.	Same as above	1,000.00	NCB
DD 01 (NP)	DGM/NP/CE (Com)/MP/T/2021/41 Tender for obtaining Private Security Services to the Provincial Stores, CEB, Chunnakam	08/04/2021 14.00 hrs.	Same as above	1,000.00	NCB
DD 01 (NP)	DGM/NP/CE (Com)/MP/T/2021/42 Tender for obtaining Private Security Services to the Office of the Electrical Engineer, Construction, Vavuniya	08/04/2021 14.00 hrs.	Same as above	1,000.00	NCB
DD 01 (NP)	DGM/NP/CE (Com)/BD/T/2021/43 Rent or lease a building for the use of Construction Engineer's office – Vavuniya for 2 years period. (around 1400 sq.ft. drinking water, Electricity, Telephone Facilities, parking facility for 05 numbers of vehicles within Vavuniya Town limit	01/04/2021 14.00 hrs.	Same as above	-	NCB
DD 01 (NP)	DGM/NP/CE (Com)/BD/T/2021/44 Rent or lease a building for the use of Electrical Engineer (Material Management) for 2 years period. (with drinking water, Electricity, Sanitary, telephone facilities, parking facility for one vehicle, minimum one bed room & kitchen within Jaffna Municipal Council Area)	01/04/2021 14.00 hrs.	Same as above	-	NCB
DD 01 (Colombo City)	DGM(CC)/EE(MM)/PPC/2021/004 Supply & Delivery of Bus Bar type Current Transformers(600/1/1A) & Ring Type Current Transformers (600/300/1A)	07/04/2021 10.00 hrs.	Office of Deputy General Manager (Colombo City), 4th Floor, Lakshman's Building, 340, R.A. De Mel Mw, Colombo 03 until 06.04.2021. 011-2575930.	1,000.00	NCB
DD 01 (Colombo City)	DGM(CC)/EE(MM)/PPC/2021/007 Supply & Delivery of Straight Through Jointing Kits	07/04/2021 10.00 hrs.	Same as above	3,500.00	NCB
DD 01 (Colombo City)	DGM(CC)/EE(MM)/PPC/2021/008 Supply & Delivery of Transition Jointing Kits	07/04/2021 10.00 hrs.	Same as above	3,500.00	NCB
DD 01 (Colombo City)	DGM(CC)/EE(MM)/PPC/2021/009 Supply & Delivery of End Termination Kits	07/04/2021 10.00 hrs.	Same as above	3,500.00	NCB
DD 01 (Colombo City)	DGM(CC)/EE(MM)/PPC/2021/018 Supply & Delivery of Ferrules & Sockets	07/04/2021 10.00 hrs.	Same as above	1,000.00	NCB
DD 01 (NWP-2)	CEB/NWP2/NCB/M/21/009 Supply & Delivery of 8.3m 500kg Reinforced Concrete poles	08/04/2021 10.00 hrs.	The Office of the Deputy General Manager (NWP -2), Ceylon Electricity Board, No.25, Rajapihilla Road, Kurunegala. T.No: 037- 2065498, Fax :037- 2065497	1,000.00	NCB
DD 01 (NWP-2)	CEB/NWP2/NCB/M/21/0010 Supply & Delivery of 11m 350kg Pre - Stressed Concrete poles	08/04/2021 10.00 hrs.	Same as above	3,500.00	NCB
DD 01 (NWP-2)	CEB/NWP2/NCB/M/21/0011 Supply & Delivery of 11m 500kg Pre - Stressed Concrete poles	08/04/2021 10.00 hrs.	Same as above	3,500.00	NCB
DD 03 (Sabaragamuwa)	SAB/CE(COM)/T/2021/21 Supply & Delivery of 1,000 Nos. of 8.3m/100kg Pre-Stressed Spun Concrete Poles	07/04/2021 14.00 hrs.	Office of Deputy General Manager (Sabaragamuwa), Chief Engineer (Commercial) unit, Ceylon Electricity Board, No .09, New Town, Ratnapura Tel. No. 045-2225891-95 Fax: 045-2226084	2500.00	NCB
DD 03 (Sabaragamuwa)	SAB/CE(COM)/T/2021/22 Supply & Delivery of 1,000 Nos. of 6m/50kg Pre-Stressed Spun Concrete Poles	07/04/2021 14.00 hrs.	Same as above	2500.00	NCB
Assets Management Division (WAS)	CEPP/BID/G/2020/93 Supply, Testing & Delivery of 01 no. of Brand New Tropicalized & Prime Rated 70kVA AMF Silent type Diesel Generator.	15/04/2021 10.00 hrs.	Office of the Chief Engineer, Power Plants Unit, Ceylon Electricity Board, Meethotamulla Road, Kolonnawa., 011 257 2411	1,000.00	NCB
Assets Management Division (WAS)	CEPP/BID/G/2019/258 Supply, Testing & Delivery of 01 no. of Brand New Tropicalized & Prime Rated 100kVA AMF Silent type Diesel Generator.	15/04/2021 14.00 hrs.	Same as above	1,000.00	NCB
Projects Division (TCP)	CEB/TCP/DGM/CWGS/ 2020/05-1 Supply & Delivery of Substation Fittings & Tubular Busbars for the Construction of Wagawatta Grid Substation.	29/04/2021 10.00 hrs.	Office of the DGM (Transmission Construction Projects), No. 55/1-1, Thalapatthiya Road, Embuldeniya , Nugegoda, Sri Lanka. TP: +94 (11) 2836051/2, Fax: +94 (11) 2836053	7,000.00	ICB
SERVICES					
Generation Division (Thermal Complex)	Retender – TC/KPS/FS/Q/2020/11-811/ 3200 Cleaning, Inspection, and Ultrasonic Thickness Gauging of Fuel Storage Tanks (each 12000 m ³ in capacity) of Kelanitissa Power Station	07/04/2021 14.00 hrs.	Office of the Deputy General Manager (Thermal Complex), Generation Head Quarters, Ceylon Electricity Board, New Kelani Bridge Road, Kolonnawa Tel: 011-2437426, 011-2423897	1,000.00	NCB
Generation Division (Samanala Complex)	SC/DGM/BID/SWPS/2021/01 Cleaning Contract for Roads at Samanalawewa Dam Areas 2021/2022	01/04/2021 14.00 hrs.	Office of the Chief Engineer (SWPS), Samanalawewa Power Station, Ceylon Electricity Board, Kapugala, Balangoda. Telephone:045 2222554 Tele/fax: 045 2222501 Email: ceswps@ceb.lk	500.00	NCB
DD 01 (Colombo City)	DGM(CC)/CE(P&D)/PPC/2021/001 Hiring of a Van for Chief Engineer (P&D) Unit of Colombo City (For 02 years)	07/04/2021 10.00 hrs.	Office of Deputy General Manager (Colombo City), 4th Floor, Lakshman's Building, 340, R.A. De Mel Mw, Colombo 03 until 06.04.2021, 011-2575930.	1,000.00	NCB
DD 01 (NWP-2)	CEB/NWP2/NCB/HV/21/008 Hiring a Van for CE (Planning and Development) Unit	08/04/2021 10.00 hrs.	The Office of the Deputy General Manager (NWP -2),Ceylon Electricity Board, No.25,Rajapihilla Road,Kurunegala. T.No: 037- 2065498,Fax :037- 2065497	1,000.00	NCB
DD 02 (East)	DGM [E]/QPPC/21/108 Hiring a van for the use of Electrical Superintendent (Pottuvil ECSC) –Ampara for a period of 02 years.	31/03/2021 14.00 hrs.	Office of the ACEE(Ampara), 063222387, 063-2222078 Or Office of the DGM [East], Trincomalee 026-2222666, 026-2221030	1,000.00	NCB
DD 02 (East)	DGM [E]/QPPC/21/109 Hiring a van for the use of Electrical Superintendent (Commercial) at DGM(East) office –Trincomalee for a period of 02 years.	31/03/2021 14.00 hrs.	Office of the DGM [East], Trincomalee 026-2222666, 026-2221030	1,000.00	NCB
DD 02 (WPN)	WPN/KEL/EC02/CLEANING CSC/2021/01 Daily Cleaning Service & Maintenance for CSCS Delgoda, Kirillawala and Mawaramandiya (for One year Contract)	31/03/2021 14.00 hrs.	Chief Electrical Engineer's Office, CEB. 624, Kandy Road, Kirillawala, Kadawatha. T.P.011 2925880 Fax - 011 2925885	500.00	NCB
DD 02 (WPN)	WPN/FA/CEP/MV-LV (Pole Lines)/2021-2022 Registration of Contractors for Construction of 33 kV & LV pole lines including installation of distribution transformers & other equipment for Central Expressway Project in WPN – 2021/2022 (Non Refundable Registration Fee Rs. 5,000.00)	31/03/2021 14.00 hrs.	Office of Project Manager (Central Expressway Project) - WPN, Ceylon Electricity Board, No. 18/37, Udyana Pedesa, Soorigama, Kadawatha	500.00	NCB
DD 02 (WPN)	WPN/FA/CEP/MV (Tower Lines)/2021-2022 Registration of contractors for Construction of 33kV Tower lines including Tower Foundations, Erection and Conductor Stringing for Central Expressway Project in WPN - 2021 & 2022 (Non Refundable Registration Fee Rs. 5,000.00)	31/03/2021 14.00 hrs.	Same as above	500.00	NCB
DD 02 (WPN)	WPN/FA/CEP/MV-LV (UG Lines)/2021-2022 Registration of contractors for Construction of 33 kV & LV underground cable lines for Central Expressway Project in WPN - 2021 & 2022 (Non Refundable Registration Fee Rs. 5,000.00)	31/03/2021 14.00 hrs.	Same as above	500.00	NCB
DD 02 (PHM)	PHM DD2/DGM/EE(MC&S)/DPC/2020/51 Supply of Unnamed Private Security Service to Valachchenai Stores for One Year . Security OIC – 02 Nos. , Security Guard – 05 Nos.	07/04/2021 14.00 hrs.	Deputy General Manager (P&HM) DD2, Ceylon Electricity Board, P.O.Box. 18, Lamagaraya Road, Kandy. 081-2222286 , 081-2204298	1,000.00	NCB
DD 02 (Central 2)	CP2/CE(COM)/PPC/2021/025 Supply & Delivery of Plotter (Printer) Machine for Chief Engineer (P&D- CP 02).	07/04/2021 14.00 hrs.	Chief Engineer (Commercial)-CP2, CEB, Quarry Road, Eriyagama, Peradeniya. T.P 081-4949160	500.00	NCB
DD 02 (Central 2)	CP2/CE(COM)/PPC/2021/037 Rent/Lease Land for Use as ECSC Moronthota in Kegalle Area for a Period of 02 Years. Requirements - Building should be located in and around Moronthota area, Building should be approx. 2000 sq.ft., Need a garage for parking 02 Lorries & 03 Dual Purpose Vehicles, Need water, Electricity, Telephone and sanitary facilities, Need safety fence or wall around the land.	07/04/2021 14.00 hrs.	Same as above	-	NCB
DD 02 (Central 2)	CP2/CE(COM)/PPC/2021/038 Hiring of a Three Wheeler for Commercial Sub Unit in Mawanella Area for a Period of 02 Years.	07/04/2021 14.00 hrs.	Same as above	1,000.00	NCB
DD 02 (Central 2)	CP2/CE(COM)/PPC/2021/039 Tender for Preventing of Land Slide at Area Engineer's Office Peradeniya – Stage 11	07/04/2021 14.00 hrs.	Same as above	1,000.00	NCB
DD 02 (Central 1)	CP1/CE(COM)/PPC/2021/048 Hiring of a Van for ECSC at Nugawela in Galagedara Area for a Period of 02 Years	07/04/2021 14.00 hrs.	Chief Engineer (Commercial), CEB, No. 04, Asgiriya Road, Kandy. T.P 081-2234324, 081-2234000	1,000.00	NCB
DD 02 (Central 1)	CP1/CE(COM)/PPC/2021/050 Hiring of a Light Lorry for Sub Depot at Bathgampola in Kundasale Area for a Period of 02 Years	07/04/2021 14.00 hrs.	Same as above	1,000.00	NCB
DD 02 (Central 1)	CP1/CE(COM)/PPC/2021/051 Hiring of a Van for Commercial Sub Unit in Katugastota Area for a Period of 02 Years	07/04/2021 14.00 hrs.	Same as above	1,000.00	NCB
DD 02 (Central 1)	CP1/CE(COM)/PPC/2021/052 Hiring of a Crew Cab for Area Maintenance Sub Unit in Katugastota Area for a Period of 02 Years	07/04/2021 14.00 hrs.	Same as above	1,000.00	NCB

DD 02 (Central 1)	CPI/CE(COM)/PPC/2021/053 Hiring of a Motor car for Area Electrical Engineer (Dambulla) Area for a Period of 02 Years	07/04/2021 14.00 hrs.	Same as above	1,000.00	NCB
DD 02 (Central 1)	CPI/CE(COM)/PPC/2021/054 Hiring of a Van for CE(Construction) Unit – CP1 for a Period of 02 Years	07/04/2021 14.00 hrs.	Same as above	1,000.00	NCB
DD 02 (Central 1)	CPI/CE(COM)/PPC/2021/055 Hiring of a 4WD Double Cab for CE(Distribution & Maintenance) Unit – CP1 for a Period of 02 Years	07/04/2021 14.00 hrs.	Same as above	1,000.00	NCB
DD 02 (Central 1)	CPI/CE(COM)/PPC/2021/062 Rent/Lease Building for Use as Official Quarters of Electrical Superintendent (Naula) in Dambulla Area for a Period of 02 Years. Requirements- Located in and around Naula Sub Unit Area ,Building should be approx. 1500sqft., Need water, Electricity & road facilities, Need parking facilities for 02 nos. of vehicles	07/04/2021 14.00 hrs.	Self-prepared detailed application to be forwarded with expected monthly rental. T.P 081-2234324, 066-2283442	1,000.00	NCB
DD 02 (Central 1)	CPI/CE(COM)/PPC/2021/063 Rent/Lease Building with Land for Storage Materials Belonging to CEB Working Gangs & Parking CEB Vehicles belonging to CE(Energy Management) – CP1 Unit for a Period of 02 Years.Requirements - Land should be Located in and around Kandy City Area, Land should be approx.1500sqft., Need water, Electricity & Sanitary facilities with 02 Nos. of Toilets, Need Clear Entrance to enter the Land, parking facilities for 02 nos. of Crew cabs & 02 Nos of Double Cabs, Need Security Fence around the Land.	07/04/2021 14.00 hrs.	Self-prepared detailed application to be forwarded with expected monthly rental. T.P 081-4949962, 066-2234324	1,000.00	NCB
DD 02 (Central 1)	CPI/CE(COM)/PPC/2021/064 Rent/Lease Building for Use as Official Quarters of Area Electrical Engineer (Dambulla) for a Period of 02 Years. Requirements - Building should be Located in and around Dambulla Area & should be close to the main road, Building should be approx. 2000 sq.ft. with 03 Bed rooms, Need Pipe water, Electricity & Land telephone Facilities,Need parking facilities for 02 Nos. of Light Vehicles., Need a Security safety Fence around the garden.	07/04/2021 14.00 hrs.	Self-prepared detailed application to be forwarded with expected monthly rental. T.P 081-2234324, 066-2283442	1,000.00	NCB
DD 03 (Uva)	DGM(UVA)/CE(COM)/DEO1/HV-117/DI-11/2K21/12 Bid for hiring of Three-wheeler for Electrical Engineer (Diyatalawa) Unit – Commercial, Disconnection Team 1 (For 2 years)	07/04/2021 15.00 hrs.	Office of the Deputy General Manager (Uva), Chief Engineer (Commercial) Unit, Ceylon Electricity Board, No 04, Spring Valley Road, Hindagoda, Badulla. Tel :0552222474	500.00	NCB
DD 03 (Uva)	DGM(UVA)/CE(COM)/DEO1/HV-126/DI-12/2K21/13 Bid for hiring of Three-wheeler for Electrical Engineer (Diyatalawa) Unit – Commercial, Disconnection Team 2 (For 2 years)	07/04/2021 15.00 hrs.	Same as above	500.00	NCB
DD 03 (Uva)	ඔය(ලව) පුදුම(ඔය) / ඔලු ඔය(ලව) / 2021/02 Lease out a House for Electrical Superintendent (Wellawaya) around Wellawaya Town (2 Years)	07/04/2021 15.00 hrs	Office of Area Electrical Engineer (Monaragala), Ceylon Electricity Board, Wellawaya road, Monaragala Tel : 0552277350	500.00	NCB
DD 03 (Sabaragamuwa)	SAB/EM-V06/HV/2021/27 Hiring of a Dual Purpose Van for Chief Engineer(Energy Management) Eheliyagoda Sub Unit	07/04/2021 14.00 hrs.	Office of the DGM,CE (Commercial) Unit, Ceylon Electricity Board, New Town, Rathnapura T.P No. 045-2225891-5 , Fax: 045-2226084	1,000.00	NCB
DD 03 (Sabaragamuwa)	SAB/RAT-V79/HV/2021/28 Hiring of a Three Wheeler for Area Electrical Engineer Unit - Rathnapura	07/04/2021 14.00 hrs.	Same as above	1,000.00	NCB
DD 03 (Sabaragamuwa)	SAB/EM-V77/HV/2021/29 Hiring of a Dual Purpose Van for Energy Management Unit (Sabaragamuwa) - Rathnapura Gang	07/04/2021 14.00 hrs.	Same as above	1,000.00	NCB
DD 03 (Sabaragamuwa)	SAB/DM-V66/HV/2021/30 Hiring of a Dual Purpose Van for Chief Engineer(Distribution Maintenance) Sabaragamuwa – Embilipitiya Gang	07/04/2021 14.00 hrs.	Same as above	1,000.00	NCB
DD 03 (Sabaragamuwa)	SAB/DM-V61/HV/2021/31 Hiring of a Double Cab 4 Wheel Drive for Chief Engineer(Distribution Maintenance) Rathnapura II Gang	07/04/2021 14.00 hrs.	Same as above	1,000.00	NCB
Projects Division (PSRSP)	PSRSP/PM4/TENDERS/2021/04 Leasing a building for the Project Office of PSRSP- PMU 4, for a period of three (03) years, located within the city limits of Sri Jayawardeneputra and outskirts(within 2 km radial distance from Pelawatta Junction) with easy access to main roads. Building shall have a minimum floor area of 2500 sq.ft., with in-house parking space available for at least 8 double cab vehicles	31/03/2021 1000 hrs.	Office of Project Director, PSRSP, Ceylon Electricity Board, 759, Thalagama South, Pelawatta. 0112 888495/6 , 071 399 1727	Free of charge	NCB
Projects Division (TCP)	CEB/DGM/TCP/RMATL/2020/02 Leasing of accommodation for projects staff at Monaragala Minimum floor area of 1500 sqft and 4 No of separate rooms should be contained in the accommodation.	01/04/2021 10.00 hrs.	DGM (Transmission Construction Projects),Transmission Line Construction Projects Unit,Ceylon Electricity Board, No. 55-1/1, Thalpathpitiya Rd, Embuldeniya, Nugegoda. TP: 011 -2836051/2, Fax: 011-2836053	NA	NCB

Chairman of the above Procurement Committees, on behalf of the Ceylon Electricity Board, now invites sealed Bids from potential Suppliers for the above mentioned items on the basis of International /National competitive bidding. Bids should be submitted only on the bid documents purchased from the CEB.

Bidding Documents will be issued only to the prospective Bidders or their accredited Agents. Wherever necessary they should get registered in terms of the Public Contracts Act No.3 of 1987.

Bidding Documents could be purchased by any prospective bidder or their accredited Agents on submission of a written request to the respective Deputy General Manager/Chief Engineer of the CEB upon payment of the amount indicated in Column 6 of the above table for each set of Bid Document, between 0900 hrs. and 1500 hrs. on any working day till the day prior to the bid closing date. Payment shall be made in cash or bank draft drawn in favour of the General Manager, CEB.

Foreign Diplomatic Missions / Trade Commissions may obtain information copies of the Bidding Documents, free of charge on submission of a written request. The Bidding Documents may be inspected by the prospective bidders or their Agents at the office of the respective DGM/CE free of charge.

Bids will be opened immediately after the closing time of the bidding in the presence of Bidders and their authorized representatives at the locations indicated in Column 9. Late Bids shall be rejected.

All clarifications shall be sought two weeks before the Bid closing date, from the respective DGM/CE of the CEB who issued the bidding Documents.

* ICB – International Competitive Bidding, NCB – National Competitive Bidding.

General Manager

Enrich Life through Power



The Information copy of the Bid document may be downloaded from the CEB Corporate website www.ceb.lk

NOTICE
Notice is hereby given in terms of Section 9(1) of the Companies Act No. 7 of 2007 of the incorporation of the following companies.
Name of the Company: MOSTRA (PVT) LTD
Registration No. PV 00234173
Date of Incorporation: 03.02.2021.
Address: No. 34/3, Kottawa Road, Maviththara, Piliyandala.

**PROCUREMENT NOTICE
INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)**



State Ministry of Women and Child Development, Pre-School & Primary Education, School Infrastructure & Education Services.

Procurement of Furniture for Primary Section in National Schools - 2021

IFB No: (MWCDSS/ED/Pro/04/01)

1. The Chairman, Ministry Procurement Committee on behalf of the State Ministry of Women and Child Development, Pre-School & Primary Education, School Infrastructure & Education Services now invites sealed bids for Procurement of Furniture for Primary Schools from eligible and qualified bidders for supply of Furniture, Wooden and Steel Desks and Chairs for students as item detail given below. Complete details may be seen in the bidding documents.

Lot No.	Brief Description	Quantity	Bid Security Amount (Rs.)	Location Duration of Delivery
A	Medium Size Primary Children Wooden Desks	5438	450,000.00	islandwide delivery within 12-14 weeks
	Medium Size Primary Children Wooden Chairs	5438		
B	Medium Size Primary Children Wooden Desks	3400	285,000.00	
	Medium Size Primary Children Wooden Chairs	3400		

- Bidding will be conducted under National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedure.
- Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from the Procurement Division, State Ministry, 06th Floor, Wing D, "Sethsiripaya" Stage II, and inspect the bidding documents (free of charge) from 9.00 a.m. to 3.30 p.m. on all working days.
- A complete set of Bidding Documents in English language may be purchased by interested bidders from the Procurement Division on submission of a written application at or before 3.00 p.m. on 06th April 2021, and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Rs. 3500/- . The method of payment will be by cash.
- Qualification requirements include : possessing the minimum three (03) years experience in manufacturing, selling and delivering islandwide. A margin of preference for eligible locally produced goods offered shall not be applied. Additional details are provided in the Bidding document.
- Bids must be delivered to the Procurement Division of the address given above on or before 08th April 2021 at 11.00 a.m. Late Bids will be returned unopened. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend in person at the address given above. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security as mentioned above.

Telephone: 011-3611110, Fax: 011-2187255

**Secretary,
State Ministry of Women and Child Development,
Pre-School & Primary Education, School Infrastructure & Education Services.**

17.03.2021



PROCUREMENT NOTICE

PROVINCIAL ROAD DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (W.P.)

Ministry of Provincial Road, Transport, Co-operative Development and Trade, Housing and Construction, Estate Infrastructure Facilities, Industry and Rural Development - Western Province

Obtaining / Hiring of Tipper Trucks for the Executive Engineer's Office and Tipper Trucks for the Transportation of Asphalt produced in Asphalt Manufacturing Factories in Pannala and Wagawatta on Hire/Rent basis.

Bids are hereby invited from the Tipper Truck Suppliers for obtaining Tipper Trucks, on Hire / Rent basis, required for the Executive Engineer's Offices and Tipper Trucks of 03/05 cubes in size, needed for the Transportation of Asphalt manufactured in the Asphalt Factory Yards in Pannala / Wagawatta belonging to this Authority.

Bid Summary

Bid No.	Description	Quantity / Size m3	Non refundable Tender Form Fee (without VAT)	Value of the Bid Security	
				In Cash	Bank Guarantee / Insurance Bond
For the Asphalt Manufactory, Wagawatta					
PRDA/WP/PRO/2021/09	Obtaining Cubes 03/05 size Tipper Trucks on hire/rent basis		Rs. 2,000.00	Rs. 20,000.00	-
For the Asphalt Manufactory, Pannala					
PRDA/WP/PRO/2021/10	Obtaining Cubes 03/05 size Tipper Trucks on hire/rent basis		Rs. 2,000.00	Rs. 20,000.00	-
Obtaining Lorries / Tipper Trucks on Hire / Rent Basis to be deployed in the Services at Executive Engineer's Offices, in Horana, Moratuwa, Nittambuwa, Awissawella and Udugampola.					
PRDA/WP/PRO/2021/13	Obtaining Lorries / Tipper Trucks on hire/rent basis to be deployed in the Services of the Executive Engineer's Offices in Horana, Moratuwa, Nittambuwa, Awissawella and Udugampola		Rs. 1,000.00	Rs. 10,000.00	-

- Sets of Bidding Documents in this regard could be obtained from the Procurement Division of this authority from 9.00 a.m. to 2.30 p.m. from **18.03.2021 to 31.03.2021** upon payment of the abovementioned non-refundable Tender Form Fee in the table above (Except the registered Suppliers for the supply Lorries on rent/ hire basis for this Authority). The Bid Security, for the purpose should be submitted as per the conditions, laid down in the Procurement Documents in cash or by way of a Bank Guarantee, to the value mentioned in the Table above, as relevant.
- Bids will be closed and will be opened at **2.30 p.m. on 01.04.2021** at this office and the Bidder or one of his authorized Agents could be present on this occasion.

**Chairman
Procurement Committee
Provincial Road Development Authority (PRDA) (W.P.),
No. 59, St. Sebastian Hill,
Colombo 12.
Telephone No : 011-5676903**

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INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)
STATE PRINTING CORPORATION

IFB No : SPC/SU/L/2021/FI/12

Supply, Installation, Commissioning & Training of Web Offset Four Colour Printing Machine

- State Printing Corporation has received a grant from the Government of Sri Lanka towards the procurement of Printing Machineries and it intends to apply a part of the proceeds of this grant for payments under the Contract for the Supply, Installation, Commissioning and Training of Web Offset Four Colour Printing Machine.
- Under the above fund arrangement, State Printing Corporation (SPC) invites sealed Bids from eligible and qualified Bidders, Importers or Manufacturers through their accredited local Agents for the Supply, Installation, Commissioning and Training of Web Offset Four Colour Printing Machine.
- Bidders are required to furnish Bid Security of Rs. 1,300,000.00.
- Bidding will be conducted through **National Competitive Bidding (NCB)** procedure.
- Bids may be submitted by local Agents on behalf of their respective principals, who have previous experience of at least ten (10) years in supplying, installing and maintaining of machineries of similar capacity.
- Pre-Bid meeting will be held on **29.03.2021, 9.30 a.m.** at State Printing Corporation, Panaluwa, Padukka.
- A complete set of Bidding Documents in English Language may be purchased by interested Bidders on submission of a written application, which accompanies the receipt of payment of a non-refundable fee of **Rs. 20,000.00**. Bid Documents will be issued on working days from **9.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m.** and commencing from **18.03.2021 to 07.04.2021**.
- Duly filled Bidding Documents in duplicate, marked "**Original**" and "**Duplicate**" relevantly in two sealed envelopes and enclosed both in one sealed envelope marked "**Bid for Web Offset Four Colour Printing Machine : SPC/SU/L/2021/FI/12**" on the top left-hand corner of the envelope should be deposited in the Tender Box kept at the **Office of Supplies Manager**, State Printing Corporation, Panaluwa, Padukka, at or before **11.00 a.m. on 08.04.2021**. Late Bid submissions are not accepted.
- Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend in person immediately after the bid closing on **08.04.2021**.

**Chairman,
Department Procurement Committee,
State Printing Corporation,
Panaluwa, Padukka.**



PROCUREMENT NOTICE
DEPARTMENT OF GOVERNMENT PRINTING

The Chairman, Procurement Committee, Department of Government Printing, invites Bids from Foreign Principals / Accredited Agents in Sri Lanka for the supply of following.

CTP Thermal Plate / Replenisher / Developer

Item No.	Quantity	Machine Type	Size (mm)
1. CTP Thermal Plate	1500 Nos.	SM 74	605x745
2. Replenisher (Thermal)	360 Lts		
3. Developer (Thermal)	960 Lts		

Bid Reference No. : **SI 2021/24**

Bid Fee : Rs. 2,000.00

Closing of above Bids : 2 p.m. on **08.04.2021** and open the Bids immediately after closing the same.

Bidding Documents will be issued on official working days from 9.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. by the Supplies Division, Department of Government Printing, 118, Dr Danister de Silva Mawatha, Colombo 08 on written application together with a non-refundable fee of Rs. 2,000.00 per each Bid on or before 2 p.m. day prior to the closing date of Bids given above.

Further particulars could be obtained from my office during working days from 9.00 a.m. to 4.15 p.m.

Gangani Liyanage
Chairman, Procurement Committee

Department of Government Printing
118, Dr. Danister de Silva Mawatha, Colombo 08.

Telephone : 011-2694898
Websites : www.documents.gov.lk
www.npa.gov.lk

16.03.2021

CORRECTION NOTICE
DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA
Ministry of Highways

INVITATION FOR BIDS

This refers to the above titled advertisement published on page No. 26 of Daily News on 15th March 2021.

Please note that the item under contract No. 01 should be corrected as follows;
01. RDA/EOM&M/GOSL/WP/MNT/STDP/2021/05

The other contents remain unchanged.

Chairman,
Procurement Committee of the Road Development Authority,
Road Development Authority, 01st Floor, Maganeguma Mahamedura,
No. 216, Denzil Kobbekaduwa Mawatha, Koswatta, Battaramulla.

AMENDED PROCUREMENT NOTICE
DEPARTMENT OF GOVERNMENT PRINTING

Bid Opening Date Amendment

Bid Reference - **SI 2021/20**

Heading - "Purchase of 01 No. of Perfect Binding Machine with Three Knife Cutter (Offline)"

With reference to the notice published on **24.02.2021** in Daily News under "N", No. 52, respectively should be corrected as follows.

Closing of above Bids: 2 p.m. on "**25.03.2021**" and open the Bids immediately after closing the same.
The other conditions remain the same.

Further particulars could be obtained from my office during working days from 8.30 a.m. to 4.15 p.m.

Gangani Liyanage
Chairman, Procurement Committee

Department of Government Printing
118, Dr. Danister de Silva Mawatha,
Colombo 08.

Telephone : 011-2694898

Website : www.documents.gov.lk

16.03.2021

PANNALA PRADESHIYA SABHA
PROCUREMENT NOTICE

01. Leasing of Shops:

Tenders are invited by me for leasing of 05 shops on the upper floor of the New Market Complex at the Pannala Bus Stand belonging to the Pannala Pradeshiya Sabha on key money basis.

Issuing of Tender Forms : from 16.03.2021 up to 2.00 p.m. on 30.03.2021

Accepting of Tender Forms : Till 2.00 p.m. on 31.03.2021

Opening of Tenders : At 2.00 pm. on 31.03.2021 at the Head Office of the Pradeshiya Sabha.

- Tenders should be submitted on tender forms obtained from this office for each of the shops after paying the bid guarantee and the application fee as specified in the schedule. Cheques will not be accepted.
- Tender applications will be issued in two copies as mentioned in the schedule below and they should be enclosed in separate envelopes and the words "Shop No." first copy, second copy should be marked on the top left-hand corner of these envelopes and sent by registered post to the Secretary, Pannala Pradeshiya Sabha, Pannala or could be inserted in the tender box kept in this office.

Procurement conditions:

- When signing the agreement, subject to the lump sum payment of the key money, a sum equivalent to 4 times the monthly rent should be paid as a lump sum payment within 14 days as a security deposit and should enter into an agreement with the Sabha. After signing the agreement, the bid deposits of all bidders will be released (subject to Government's monthly rent assessment enforced for 02 years).
- The applicant or his nominated representative could participate at the bid opening.
- Bids submitted with a lower value than the minimum bid amount (value of key money) will be rejected.
- When errors occur at the time of filling forms, it should be scratched with a single line and the correction noted and initialled (Tipp-Ex should not be used).
- The Pannala Pradeshiya Sabha Procurement Committee retains the right to accept or reject any bid.

Schedule

Shop	Extent of the Shop in sq.ft.	Key money Amount Rs. Cts.	Refundable Bid Deposit Rs. Cts.	Money Rent Rs. Cts.
Upper Floor 06	130	620,000.00	31,000.00	2,100.00
Upper Floor 07	130	620,000.00	31,000.00	2,100.00
Upper floor 08	130	620,000.00	31,000.00	2,300.00
Upper floor 09	130	620,000.00	31,000.00	2,400.00

02. 2 * 3/3 * 5 whiteboard.

03. Foot operated sink

(Please send us a photograph of this product)

04. M. litre water tank.

Details regarding this matter could be obtained from the Head Office of the Pannala Pradeshiya Sabha.

Tel. Nos. 037-2246049 / 037-4947136

L.M.S.K. Ranjith Lansakara
Chairman

Invitation for Bids



Ministry of Education
University of Ruhuna

Accelerating Higher Education Expansion and Development Project (AHEAD)

Supply, Delivery, Installation, Commissioning and Testing of Furniture, Laboratory Equipment and Solar Power System for University of Ruhuna

IFB No : **AHEAD/RUH/STEM03/GOODS/2021/01**

1. The Chairman, Department Procurement Committee on behalf of the Vice Chancellor, University of Ruhuna now invites sealed Bids from eligible and qualified Bidders for Procurement of items listed in the following table.

Package No.	Item No.	Goods / Descriptions	Qty.	Bid Security (Rs.)	Non Refundable Tender Fee (Rs.)
01. Furniture	1.1	Lecture Theatre Tables	72	283,500.00	5,600.00
	1.2	Lecture Theatre Benches	72		
	1.3	Wooden Computer Tables	70		
	1.4	Computer Chairs	70		
	1.5	Examination Tables	300		
02. Laboratory Equipment	2.1	Edspot Galvanometers	10	42,000.00	1,250.00
	2.2	Ice Flake Maker Machine (120L)	01		
03. Other	3.1	Solar Power System	01	172,500.00	4,000.00

- Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding procedure.
- A complete set of Bidding Documents in English Language can be obtained by submission of a written application to Deputy Director - Procurement, Operations Technical Secretariat, University of Ruhuna, Wellamadama, Matara with the payment of relevant non-refundable fees as mentioned in above table in cash to the Shroff, University of Ruhuna, Wellamadama, Matara or by submitting the bank slip of relevant non-refundable fee deposited to the **Peoples Bank A/C No. 032100112477589** on working days from 09.00 hours to 15.00 hours until **05th April 2021**.
- Bids shall be valid up to **08th July 2021**.
- Bid shall be accompanied by a Bid Security (unconditional) as relevant to the applicable. Bidding packages issued by an accepted **commercial bank** operating in Sri Lanka.
- Bid Security shall be addressed to **Vice Chancellor**, University of Ruhuna, Wellamadama, Matara and valid up to **05th August 2021**.
- Deadline for submission of Bids shall be on or before **1.00 p.m. on 08th April 2021**.
- Duly completed sealed Bids in duplicate shall be sent under registered cover to receive on or before above closing time to the Chairman, Department Procurement Committee, University of Ruhuna, Wellamadama, Matara or deposited in the "**Tender Box No. 2**" placed at the Office of the Registrar, University of Ruhuna, Wellamadama, Matara before above closing time. Procurement name, number and package number should be indicated on the left-hand top corner of the envelope.
- Late Bids will be rejected.**
- Evaluation shall be done **item by item basis**.
- The Bids shall be opened at **1.00 p.m. on 08th April 2021** in the presence of the Bidders or their authorized representatives who choose to attend the Bid opening at the Senate Room of the University of Ruhuna, Wellamadama, Matara.
- Interested Bidders may obtain further information from Deputy Director - Procurement, Operations Technical Secretariat, University of Ruhuna, Wellamadama, Matara. T.P. : 041-2227027, 041-2222681 Ext. 2151 and inspect the Bidding Document free of charge at the above address during office hours.

The Chairman,
Department Procurement Committee,
University of Ruhuna,
Wellamadama, Matara.

17th March 2021

Holy Family Convent
Bambalapitiya
Welfare Society
60th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Due to the global pandemic Covid-19 the health authorities have advised against holding a public gathering to safeguard people for greater good.

We refer to our Press Notice of 17.08.2020, and hereby inform that the Annual General Meeting will be held via a live event through the Learner Management System (LMS) on Thursday, 8th April 2021. Parents who wish to join the AGM virtually are hereby requested to participate in the event by logging through your child's login details.

Any motion, resolution or amendment to the rules may be brought up for discussion at the Annual General Meeting only if lodged with the Hony. Secretary of the Welfare Society, C/o Holy Family Convent, Bambalapitiya, at least 14 days prior to the meeting.

In accordance with the Constitution of the Welfare Society of Holy Family Convent Bambalapitiya, nominations for the posts of Office Bearers and Committee Members are invited to be made to the Hony. Secretary to be received by April 1, 2021. The Nomination Form will include the name of proposer and seconder and the consent of the nominee. Nomination forms can be collected from the Welfare Office at the School.

The Agenda for the meeting, copies of the Annual Report, Statement of Accounts and Notices of Resolutions to be moved at the meeting would be available at the Welfare Office, to any member of the Society on request, from 12 noon on April 1, 2021.

Shashini Dharmasena
Hony, Secretary
Holy Family Convent Bambalapitiya
Welfare Society
March 18, 2021

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PROCUREMENT NOTICE**NORTH CENTRAL PROVINCIAL
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES****PURCHASE OF DENTAL MEDICAL EQUIPMENT SPARE PARTS
FOR THE BIO MEDICAL ENGINEERING UNIT - 2021**

Sealed bids are invited by me, Chairman, Departmental Procurement Committee, of the North Central Provincial Department of Health Services up to 10.00 a.m. on 07.04.2021 from eligible suppliers for the Supply of the undermentioned material to the North Central Provincial Department of Health Services.

Serial No.	Reference No.	Equipment required	Bid fee (Rs.)	Value of Bid Bond valid for 91 days (Rs.)
01	PDHS/F4/2021/P/03	Dental Medical Equipment Spare Parts	3000.00	50,000.00

- Recognized local agency institutions possessing a business names registration certificate are qualified to submit bids for this purpose. Complete details and specifications regarding the materials to be purchased could be obtained from the North Central Provincial Director of Health Services Office (Telephone Nos. 025-2050718 / 025-2223790).
- Procurement documents could be obtained from the North Central Provincial Director of Health Services Office, Anuradhapura, from 18.03.2021 up to 06.04.2021 during office hours (from 9.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m.) after paying the non refundable bid form fee and submitting the Business Names Registration Certificate. The relevant procurement documents could be inspected on this occasion free of charge.
- Duly completed bids, according to bid conditions should be sent to the Chairman, Provincial Director of Health Services, Provincial Department of Health Services, Bandaranyaka Mawatha, Anuradhapura by registered post to be received before 10.00 a.m. on 07.04.2021 or may be hand delivered to the Procurement box kept in the Accounts Division at Provincial Director of Health Services Office.
- Bids should be prepared in two copies and enclosed in separate envelopes as original and duplicate and these two envelopes should thereafter be inserted in a single envelope. The words "Purchase of Dental Medical Equipment Spare Parts for the Bio Medical Engineering Unit - 2021" should be marked on the cover of the envelope separately and submitted.
- Bids will be opened immediately after closing of accepting bids at 10.00 a.m. on 07.04.2021 and the bidders or their authorized representatives could participate on this occasion.
- A bid guarantee obtained from a commercial bank approved by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka valid for 105 days from 07.04.2021 (from 07.04.2021 up to 22.07.2021) or the receipt obtained after depositing the relevant amount in the Provincial Director of Health Services Office should be submitted in respect of the bid Bond.
- The decision of the Departmental Procurement Committee of the Provincial Department of Health Services regarding this procurement is deemed final.

**Chairman /Provincial Director of Health Services,
Provincial Department of Health Services - N.C.P.
Bandaranayaka Mawatha, Anuradhapura.**
16.03.2021

CORRECTION NOTICE**Land Acquisition Act (Chapter 460)
Notice under Section 07**

This has reference to the above notice which appeared on Page 32 of the Daily News dated 1/3/2021. Please note that the following portion had not been published due to an oversight. Hence, it should appear at the end of the advertisement as follows :
The other contents remain unchanged.

**N.A.A.S. Priyankara
Divisional Secretary
Mallawapitiya**

**Divisional Secretariat
Mallawapitiya**

REVOCAION OF POWER OF ATTORNEY

It is hereby notified to the general public of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka that,
The General Power of Attorney bearing Number 6688 attested by Attorney at Law. **W. Lal Wickramasinghe at Ragama** on the 16th day of the Month of December in the year 2020 granted by me, **Sahabandu Muhandirame Don Samanth Iddamal Gajaba (N.I.C. Number 196420100581)** of No. 23/5B, **Bangalawatta, Mahara, Kadawatha** unto **Warnakula Dehiwalage Ashen Dinupa Costa (N.I.C. Number 982023521V)** of No. 14/5, **Perera Road, Kalaeliya, Ja-ela** is hereby cancelled and nullified with effect from 15-03-2021 and I shall not bear responsibility for any act or transaction performed by the said Attorney from the said 15.03.2021.
Sahabandu Muhandirame Don Samanth Iddamal Gajaba.

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**PROCUREMENT NOTICE****PROVINCIAL ROAD DEVELOPMENT
AUTHORITY (W.P.)**

(Ministry of Provincial Roads, Transport,
Co-operative Development and Trade, Housing and
Construction, Estate Infrastructure Facilities, Industry and
Rural Development - Western Province).

**INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)
PURCHASE OF
13 NOS. LAPTOP COMPUTERS**

Bid No:- PRDA/WP/2020/PRO/12

Open bids are hereby called for the purchase of 13 Nos. Laptop Computers, for office requirements of the authority, from Suppliers who are engaged in similar supplies.

- Sets of bidding documents for the purpose, could be obtained from the Procurement Division of this Authority, from 9.00 a.m. to 2.30 p.m. from 18.03.2021 to 30.03.2021, upon payment of a non refundable tender form fee of Rs. 1080.00, (except the registered supplies). All the bids shall be accompanied by a bid security on conditions as stated in the bidding documents, in cash or by way of a Bank / Insurance Guarantee / Bond.
- Bids will be closed on 31.03.2021, and bids received will be opened at 10.30 a.m. on the same day at this office.
- Supplier or his accredited agent / representative, may be present on this occasion.

**Chairman,
Procurement Committee,
Provincial Road Development Authority (PRDA), (W.P.),
No. 59, St. Sebastian Hill,
Colombo 12.**

Telephone No. 011-5676903
09.03.2021



**Sri Lanka Police
Special Task Force**

Invitation for Bids (IFB)**(Procurements of Goods, works and services)**

- Commandant / Special Task Force, STF Headquarters, No: 223, Baudhaloka Mawatha, Colombo 07, now invite for sealed bids from eligible bidders for the following procurements to the Special Task Force (STF) Sri Lanka Police.

Con. No	Procurement No.	Description of Items	Qty.	Document Charges Rs.	Value of Bid Security Rs.
1.	STF/LOG/C/32/2021	Search Equipment (Digital Fibers scope, Multifunctional bug Detector & Frequency Jammer)	As per List	3,000.00	80,000.00
2.	STF/LOG/C/34/2021	i5 Computers with UPS	50	3,000.00	100,000.00
3.	STF/LOG/C/46/2021	Peak Caps	As per List	2,000.00	40,000.00
4.	STF/LOG/C/48/2021	Water proof Jackets	2000	2,000.00	75,000.00
5.	STF/LOG/C/49/2021	Canvas Bags	2000	2,000.00	75,000.00
6.	STF/LOG/C/51/2021	Electrical Items (Wire, Switch, Bulb, Etc)	As per List	2,000.00	75,000.00
7.	STF/LOG/C/53/2021	Drone Cameras	04	1,000.00	30,000.00
8.	STF/LOG/C/67/2021	YAMAHA XT 225 Motorcycle spare parts	As per List	3,000.00	200,000.00
9.	STF/LOG/C/76/2021	Hardwar Firewall and APC Network Rack	As per List	2,000.00	30,000.00
10.	STF/LOG/C/77/2021	Hardware Items for Kirindiwela Camp	As per List	1,000.00	10,000.00
11.	STF/LOG/C/83/2021	Lubricant and Grease	As per List	3,000.00	100,000.00
12.	STF/LOG/C/93/2021	Hardware Items for Rathmalana Camp	As per List	1,000.00	20,000.00

- Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding (NCB) Procedure.
- Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from Director/Logistics, STF & inspect the bidding documents from the address given below from 0900 hrs, to 1500 hrs, on any working days except on Public & Bank Holidays from 19.03.2021 until 06.04.2021
- Qualified Bidders shall possess legal rights for the above procurements. The Bidder should be registered Business Firm. The Bidder should be registered under Public Contract Act No. (03) Of 1987. (For Total Bid value of over 5 million), failure to produce the registration certificates with the bids' will result for disqualifications. The Bidder shall not have a conflict of interest and bidder's name shall not be included in the list of debarred firms at the National Procurement Commission. A margin of preference for eligible locally produced goods offered shall be applied. Additional details are provided in the Bidding Documents.
- A complete set of bidding documents in English Language may be purchased by interested Bidders from the STF Procurement Unit on submission of a written application to the address mentioned below, upon payment of a non-refundable tender fee indicated above table in cash per each tender from 0900 hrs, to 1500 hrs, on any working days from 19.03.2021 up to 06.04.2021 Only a single set of bidding documents for each procurement shall be issued for an institution.
- Bids must be inserted into the tender box placed at the under noted address at or before date of opening (07.04.2021) of the respective tenders. Alternatively, bids may be sent by registered post to reach before the closing time of bids. The respective Tender Number should be indicated at the Top of the Left Corner of the Envelope. Any late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened soon after closing of bids in the presence of the bidders or their representatives who choose to attend personally at Conference Hall at STF Headquarters, No: 223, Baudhaloka Mawatha, Colombo 07 at 1400 Hrs. on 07.04.2021. The representatives who will attend on behalf of the bidder should be definitely producing an authorized letter from the organization. Otherwise they will not be allowed for sitting
- Bids shall be valid for 91 days from the date of opening of bids.
- Priority will be given to suppliers with Ex-Stock
- All bids shall be accompanied by a Bid Security at the amount indicated above and it shall be:
 - Issued by any Commercial Institution operating in Sri Lanka and approved by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka,
 - In the form include in Section IV of the Bidding Documents.
 - In favor of Commandant / STF.
 - Valid up to 07.04.2021 up to 03.08.2021.
- If it is applicable, the Bidder should pay the indicated amount of testing charges for testing process to Accountant / STF and the book receipt issued should be attached to the bid.
- The decision taken by the STF Procurement Committee will be the final decision and the Purchaser reserves the right to make any amendments on Financial Regulations and Treasury Circulars issued periodically.
- For further clarifications, please contact -

Telephone Numbers

Director / Logistics,
Special Task Force Headquarters,
No.223, Baudhaloka Mawatha, Colombo 07.

Direct : 011-2505933
General : 011-2500471/0112589741 Ext: 251
Fax : 011-2556506

**Commandant,
Special Task Force**

**CENTRAL PROVINCIAL COUNCIL****Invitation for Bids****CONSTRUCTIONS**

Source of Funding - Primary Healthcare System Strengthening Project
**Ministry of Health, Indigenous Medicine,
Social Welfare, Probation and Childcare Services**

- Bids are invited by the Chairman, Procurement Committee of the Central Provincial Ministry of Health, Indigenous Medicine, Social Welfare, Probation and Childcare Services under the National Competitive Bidding Procedure as per Public Finance Circular No. 4/2016 (ii) dated 18.02.2021 from qualified contractors for the projects mentioned in the table below.
- Bids are invited from bidders who have fulfilled the qualifications shown in the table below and are not blacklisted.
- Further details regarding the bid may be obtained either from the Chief Accountant of the Central Provincial Ministry of Health, P.O.Box No. 121, Sangaraja Mawatha, Kandy (Tel. No. 081-2232620) or from the Deputy Director (Health Buildings), Department of Engineering Services, S.W.R.D. Bandaranaike Mawatha, Kandy. (Tel. 081-2201624).
- Relevant bid documents may be obtained between 9.00 a.m. and 3.00 p.m. on working days from 18.03.2021 until 07.04.2021 from the Accounts Division of this Ministry on submission of the receipt obtained from the Chief Accountant of the Central Provincial Ministry of Health, P.O.Box No. 121, Sangaraja Mawatha, Kandy upon payment in cash of the bid document fee mentioned in the table below.
- Duly perfected bids may either be sent by registered post addressed to "Chairman, Procurement Committee, Central Provincial Ministry of Health, Indigenous Medicine, Social Welfare, Probation and Childcare Services, P.O.Box No. 121, Sangaraja Mawatha, Kandy" or deposited in the Bid Box kept at the Accounts Division of this Office to receive at or before 2.00 p.m. on 08.04.2021. Late bids will be rejected.
- Bids should be in duplicate in separate covers mentioning "Original" and "Duplicate" and sealed and both covers should be reinserted in a single cover and submitted. Name of the work and the Contract No. should be mentioned on the left hand top corner of the single cover.
- Bids will be opened immediately after closing of bids. Bidder or his authorized representative may be present at the time of opening of bids.
- A bid security to the value mentioned in the table below issued in favour of the Secretary, Central Provincial Ministry of Health, Indigenous Medicine, Social Welfare, Probation and Childcare Services from a commercial bank approved by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka, Insurance Company approved by the Sri Lanka Insurance Board or from the Construction Guarantee Fund should be submitted with the bid and the bid security should be valid until 24.06.2021. If the bid security amount is paid in cash, the amount mentioned in the table below should be paid to the Shroff of the Central Provincial Ministry of Health and a certified copy of the receipt obtained should be submitted with the bid. Bid security should be valid until 28.07.2021.
- A pre-bid meeting will be held at 10.00 a.m. on 01.04.2021 at the Central Provincial Ministry of Health, Indigenous Medicine, Social Welfare, Probation and Childcare Services.
- All bids will be referred to the Technical Evaluation Committee and the decision of the Procurement Committee is final.

Project No.	Project / Programme	Registration	Bid Document Fee	Value of Bid Security		Engineering Estimate
		CIDA	Rs.	If not paid in cash (Rs.)	If paid in Cash (Rs.)	(Rs.)
Central Provincial Department of Health Services						
1	Construction of Ambulance Garage and Restroom and Repairing the Suvadivi Clinic of the Jambughapitiya Regional Hospital	C6, C5	3,500.00	169,400.00	84,700.00	8,471,163.36
2	Repairing the Maternity Ward and Suvadivi Clinic of the Kadugannawa Regional Hospital	C6, C5	3,500.00	173,700.00	86,850.00	8,687,230.92

**Chairman
Procurement Committee
Ministry of Health, Indigenous Medicine, Social Welfare, Probation and Childcare Services
Central Province
P.O. Box No. 121, Sangaraja Mawatha,
Kandy.**

Classifieds
Automotive
M/Cycles & T/Wheelers
 For sale

WP AAS-0251 Bajaj, 2014, three-wheel for highest offer. Vallibel Finance PLC. No. 310, Galle Road, Colombo-03. Tel: 0711-210810. 020848

WP BFX-7035 Hero Maestro Edge, 2017, motor cycle for highest offer. Vallibel Finance PLC. No. 310, Galle Road, Colombo-03. Tel: 0711-210810. 020849

BANDARAWELA MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
PROCUREMENT NOTICE

Creation of a Software for the charging of fees from vehicles parked in slots in approved streets in the Bandarawela Town, using electronic medium and leasing-out the service of collection of revenue, by implementing it

Bids are hereby invited through the two envelopes method by me, Chairman of the Procurement Committee of the Bandarawela Municipal Council from Sri Lankan individuals, registered societies and companies to create a fee-charging software using electronic medium and lease-out the revenue collection service by using it on the basis of obtaining a minimum charge of 20% from the gross revenue earned per day and a minimum fee of Rs. 30.00, to the Bandarawela Municipal Council from each place of 434 numbered vehicle parking slots established in approved streets of Bandarawela town.

- Relevant bid documents can be obtained from the Revenue Section of the Municipal Council on submission of the receipt received from the Shroff of the Municipal Council on payment of a non-refundable fee of Rs. 5,000.00 in valid Sri Lanka currency. Further, when submitting bids, an amount of Rs. 200,000.00 in valid Sri Lanka currency by way of a Bid Security or paid by cash to the Municipal Council and a copy of the receipt thus received should be submitted.
- Insurance of bid documents, acceptance of bids and opening of bids will be done as follows at the Bandarawela Municipal Council.
 - Issuance of bid documents : from 18.03.2021 up to 07.04.2021 (on weekly working days up to 2.00 p.m.)
 - Acceptance of Bids : up to 2.00 p.m. on 08.04.2021
 - Opening of bids : immediately after 2.00 p.m. on 08.04.2021.
- Further details on this Bid invitation can be obtained either by calling over at the Municipal Council or by contacting the Municipal Commissioner or the Municipal Accountant on telephone No. 057-2222275.

Janaka Nishantha Ratnayake
 Mayor/Chairman,
 Procurement Committee

At the Bandarawela Municipal Council
 Date: 12.03.2021

As amended by the Land Acquisition (amended) Act No. 28 of 1964 THE ACQUISITION ACT CHAPTER 460 Notice Under Section 7

Ref. No. DIVIB/LND/LADAQ/03/KHRW/21
 Ministry of Lands and Land Development
 Ref. No. : 4-3/3/2018/NRD/87-A
 4-3/3/2018/NRD/87

The following lands required for a public purpose have been acquired by the Government. Inquiry dates will be notified separately to original claimants regarding the relevant land blocks under Section 9 of the Act.

For more information, refer the Notice published in Part III of the Extraordinary Gazette No. 2210/19 dated 13th January 2021 of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, scheduled as follows:

Schedule	
Province	: North Western Province.
District	: Kurunegala
Divisional Secretary's Division	: Ibbagamuwa
Grama Niladhari Division	: No. 522, Bakmeegolla.
Name of Village	: Bolagama, Yakalla.
No. of F.V.P.	: F.V.P. 1188, and F.V.P. 1189,
Lot Nos.	: F.V.P: 1188(6)5, 15-115(Lots. 100), F.V.P. 1189(18)16 107-131(Lots. 25)
Extent	: 4.3922 Hectares and 2.622 Hectares.
	Wasantha Warnakulasooriya, Divisional Secretary, Ibbagamuwa.

At the Divisional Secretariat,
 Ibbagamuwa.
 12.03.2021

As amended by the Land Acquisition (amended) Act No. 28 of 1964 THE ACQUISITION ACT CHAPTER 460 Notice Under Section 7

Ref. No. DIVIB/LND/LADAQ/03/KHRW/06
 Ministry of Land Ref. No. :
 4-3/3/2017/NRD/488

The following lands which are required for a public purpose have been acquired by the Government. Inquiry dates will be notified separately to original claimants regarding the relevant land blocks under Section 9 of the Act.

For more information, refer the Notice published in Part III of the Extraordinary Gazette No. 2196/53 dated 09th October 2020 of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, scheduled as follows:

Schedule	
Province	: North Western Province.
District	: Kurunegala
Divisional Secretary's Division	: Ibbagamuwa
Grama Niladhari Division	: No. 504, Kandawala.
Name of Village	: Pallekandawala.
No. of F.V.P.	: F.V.P. No. 2738, FVP No. 1253 and FVP No. 1250.
Lot Nos.	: F.V.P: 2738, 843-846, 848-875, 891 (Lots 48), FVP - 1253, 203-267 (Lots. 60) and FVP - 1250, (Lot. 01)
Extent	: 2.1547 Hectares
	Wasantha Warnakulasooriya, Divisional Secretary, Ibbagamuwa.

At the Divisional Secretariat,
 Ibbagamuwa.
 10.03.2021

Land Acquisition Act (Chapter 460) as amended by the Land Acquisition Act (amendment) No. 28 of 1964 Notice under Section 7

Plots of land described in the Schedule below have been acquired by the Government. For further details, please refer the Government Gazette Extraordinary No. 2198/11 dated 20.10.2020.

My No : HR/LD/3/1/510-VIII
 Land Ministry No : 4-3/6/2017/HW/05

Schedule	
Province	: Western
District	: Kalutara
Divisional Secretariat	: Horana
Grama Niladhari Division	: No. 631, Handupelpola
Village	: Handupelpola and Uduwa North
Preliminary Plan No.	: P.P.K.z 4772
Lot Nos.	: 01 to 112
Extent	: 8.7914 Hectares

Divisional Secretary and Acquisition Officer
 Horana

Divisional Secretariat
 Horana
 15.03.2021

INVITATION TO BID
CEYLON ELECTRICITY BOARD

Bid No: TEC/ SPS/CE/LUB/01/2021

SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF LUBRICATING OIL FOR SAPUGASKANDA POWER STATION FOR THE YEAR 2021/2022

The Chairman, Ministry Procurement Committee (MPC) on behalf of the Ceylon Electricity Board (Employer), invites sealed bids under National Competitive Bidding (NCB) from Manufacturers / their authorised agents for supply and delivery of following lubricating oil quantities to Sapugaskanda Power Station up to 10.00 hrs on 21-04-2021 in the category of SAE Class 40 or ISOVG 150 and Neutralization capacity (TBN) in the range of 40 mg KOH/g.

- 650,000 Liters (Six hundred and fifty thousand liters for one calendar year) of lubricating oil for SEMT Pielstick PC 4.2 Diesel Engines.
- 450,000 liters (Four hundred and fifty thousand liters for one calendar year) of lubricating oil for MAN B &W 8L 58/64 Diesel Engines.

You may refer the CEB web site; <http://ceb.lk/tender-notice/en> for informative copy of the bid documents and the approved lists of lubricating oils.

(Please note that no oil other than the oils in the recommended lists are allowed to use in those diesel engines). Bidders can collect samples of lubricating oil currently in operation from the Chief Engineer Sapugaskanda Power Station, Mabima Road, Heiyanthuduwa.

Bidding Documents may be purchased by the eligible Bidders to supply lubricating oil under this contract. Bidding documents could be purchased from the Office of the Deputy General Manager (Thermal Complex), Generation Headquarters, Ceylon Electricity Board, New Kelani Bridge Road, Wellampitiya, 10600., upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Rs. 35,000.00 per set in cash or bank draft drawn in favor of the General Manager, CEB, between 0900 hrs and 1500 hrs on any working day till 19-04-2021. Bids should be submitted only on documents purchased from the CEB.

Please note that if the bidder is not the manufacturer the authorized Suppliers/Agents should submit the letter of authorization issued by the Lubricating oil manufacturer.

Bids may be delivered through registered post or could be deposited in the Bid box provided for this purpose at the office of the Deputy General Manager (Corporate Affairs), 2nd Floor, Generation Headquarters, Ceylon Electricity Board, New Kelani Bridge Road, Kolonnawa 10600. **at or before 10.00 hrs on 21-04-2021.**

Late Bids shall be rejected.

Bids will be opened at the Office of the Deputy General Manager (Corporate Affairs), 2nd Floor, Generation Headquarters, Ceylon Electricity Board, New Kelani Bridge Road, Kolonnawa 10600 immediately after the closing time of the Bid in the presence of Bidders or their authorised representatives.

All clarifications shall be sought one week before the date of the closing of bidding, from the office of the Chief Engineer (Sapugaskanda Power Station), Ceylon Electricity Board, Mabima, Heiyanthuduwa. (Tel: +94 11 240 0422 / Fax: +94 11 240 0584)

Ministry Procurement Committee
On behalf of General Manager
Ceylon Electricity Board.
P.O. Box 540,
Chittampalam A. Gardiner Mw.
Colombo 02.



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Invitation for Bids

Ministry of Finance
Sri Lanka Customs

SUPPLY, INSTALLATION AND COMMISSIONING OF 230 NOS. OF PERSONAL COMPUTERS

1. The Chairman of the Departmental Procurement Committee (Minor) on behalf of the Director General of Customs invites sealed Bids from eligible and qualified Bidders for Procurement of 230 Nos. of Personal Computers for the Sri Lanka Customs.

Contract No.	Name of the Contract & Description	Amount of Bid Security (LKR)	Bid Closing	
			Date	Time
Log/S/09/Com/2021	Procurement of 230 Nos. of Personal Computers	500,000.00	09.04.2021	2.00 p.m.

- Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedure.
- A complete set of Bidding Documents in English Language may be purchased by interested Bidders on submission of a written request to the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **Rs. 3,000.00** to the Chief Shroff, 2nd Floor, Sri Lanka Customs on working days, from 9.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. on or before **07th April 2021**. The method of payment will be by cash only.
- Bids must be delivered to the Director of Customs (Logistics), Logistics Directorate, 6th Floor, Sri Lanka Customs, Customs House, No 40, Main Street, Colombo 11, at or before 2.00 p.m. on 09th April 2021. Late Bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders or their authorized representatives. All Bids must be accompanied with a Bid Security in the amount stated in the above table.
- Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from Director of Customs (Logistics), Sri Lanka Customs and inspect the Bidding Documents at the Logistics Directorate, on working days from 9.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. from **19th March 2021**.

Chairman
Department Procurement Committee (Minor)
Sri Lanka Customs
Customs House
No. 40, Main Street,
Colombo 11.
Tel : 011-2221680

INVITATION TO BID
BOARD PROCUREMENT COMMITTEE
CEYLON ELECTRICITY BOARD

Bid No: DD3/P&D/ICB/2020/058/B

Supply & Delivery of Aerial Bundled Conductor Alu.(ABC) 230/400 V3x70+54.6+16 sqmm

Chairman, Board Procurement Committee on behalf of the Ceylon Electricity Board, invites sealed bids from the potential suppliers, for the contract mentioned above. Bidding method shall be International Competitive Bidding. **Bids should be submitted only on bidding Documents purchased from the CEB.**

The fee for a set of bidding documents – LKR 20,000.00 (Payment must be made in cash or bank draft drawn in favour of the General Manager, CEB)
 Information copies are also available on <http://www.ceb.lk> free of charge.

Bidding Documents or the information copies of the Bidding Documents, may be purchased by any prospective bidder or their accredited agents, on submission of a written request to Deputy General Manager (Planning & Development- Distribution Division 3), Ceylon Electricity Board, DD3 Head Office, 3rd Floor, No. 644, Sri Jayawardanapura Mw, Ethul Kotte, upon payment of the fee indicated above, between **0900 h and 1500 h** on any working day till **27/04/2021**.

Foreign Diplomatic Missions/ Trade Commissions may obtain information copies of the Bidding Documents, free of charge on written request. Bidding Documents may be inspected at the Planning & Development Branch (Distribution Division 3), Ceylon Electricity Board, DD3 Head Office, 3rd Floor, No. 644, Sri Jayawardanapura Mw, Ethul Kotte, free of charge.

Bids should be deposited in the box provided for this purpose at the office of Deputy General Manager (Planning & Development - Distribution Division 3), Ceylon Electricity Board, DD3 Head Office, 3rd Floor, No. 644, Sri Jayawardanapura Mw, Ethul Kotte, at or before 1000 h on 28/04/2021. **Late Bids shall be rejected and returned to the bidder unopened.**

Bids will be opened at the Auditorium, 3rd Floor, Ceylon Electricity Board, DD3 Head Office, No. 644, Sri Jayawardanapura Mw, Ethul Kotte, immediately after the closing time of the bidding, in the presence of Bidders and/or their authorised representatives.

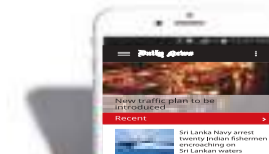
All clarifications shall be sought in writing **two weeks** before the date of closing of bidding, from the Deputy General Manager (Planning & Development- Distribution Division 3), Ceylon Electricity Board, DD3 Head Office, 3rd Floor, No. 644, Sri Jayawardanapura Mw, Ethul Kotte, **Tel: 011-2880601/2880610 Fax:011-2868573 Web: www.ceb.lk**

Chairman,
Board Procurement Committee
Ceylon Electricity Board



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INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)



STATE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT, COAST CONSERVATION,
WASTE DISPOSAL AND COMMUNITY CLEANLINESS
SRI LANKA LAND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

**"CLEANING SERVICE" – IN AND AROUND FOOD
COURT, FLOWER SHOPS AND WASH ROOM AREA AT
DIYATHA UYANA, BATTARAMULLA**

The Chairman of Department Procurement Committee on behalf of Sri Lanka Land Development Corporation (SLDC) invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the following contract.

Procurement No.	Item Description	Closing Date & Time	Bid Security
S/84/21	"Cleaning Service" – In and Around Food Court, Flower Shops and Wash Room Area at Diyatha Uyana, Battaramulla	1 st April, 2021 13.30 hrs	Rs. 60,000.00

- A complete set of Bidding Documents in English language could be inspected and purchased upon submission of a written request to the Deputy General Manager (Supplies & Stores) during 9.00 Hrs. to 15.30 Hrs. from **18th March, 2021 up to 31st March, 2021** (working days) upon payment of non-refundable fee of Rs.2,000.00 The method of payment will be only by cash to the cashier at Accounts Division (3rd Floor, New Building).
- Procurement No. and the subject should be clearly mentioned on the top left hand corner of the envelope and should be sent under registered post or deposited to the specified Tender Box kept in Supplies Division (1st Floor, New Building).
- Bid shall be delivered to the address given below on or before **1st April, 2021 at 13:30 hrs.** Late bids shall be rejected. Bids will be opened soon after closing time, in the presence of Bidders or their representatives who choose to attend.
- Pre-Bid Meeting will be conducted on **25th March, 2021** at 10.00 a.m at SLDC Board Room.
- Interested bidders may obtain further clarifications from Deputy General Manager (D&R) of SLDC Tel: +94 11 2862058 Fax: +94 11 2862058

Chairman
Sri Lanka Land Development Corporation
No.03, Sri Jayewardenepura Mawatha, Welikada, Rajagiriya.
Head office Tel: 0112 889485-7 Web: www.landdevelopment.lk



INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB-2021/03)

DEPARTMENT OF IRRIGATION
NORTHERN PROVINCIAL COUNCIL



- The Director, Department of Irrigation, Northern Province invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for civil works as described in the table below.
- Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding (NCB). Since the Estimated Value of work to be performed under this procurement (excluding VAT and other taxes) is below Rs.50 MN, regional preference and CIDA grade preference shall apply as stipulated in Public Finance Circular No.04/2016(iii).
- To be eligible for contract award, the successful bidder shall not have been blacklisted and shall meet the CIDA registration and qualification requirements listed below. Additional details are provided in the Bidding Documents.
- Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from Deputy Director of Irrigation of respective ranges and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below during office hours.

Vavuniya & Mannar Districts	Kilinochchi District	Mullaitivu District
Deputy Director's Office, Vavuniya Range, Provincial Irrigation Department, Station Road, Vavuniya. T.P: 024 2222347 / 024 2222352	Deputy Director's Office, Kilinochchi Range, Provincial Irrigation Department, Wilson Road, Kilinochchi. T.P: 021 2285867	Deputy Director's Office, Mullaitivu Range, Provincial Irrigation Department, A9 Road, Mankulam. T.P: 024 3244122

- A complete set of Bidding Documents in English language should be purchased by interested bidders on submission of a written application to the Director of Irrigation, Department of Irrigation, Northern Province, New Colony Lane, A9 Road, Mankulam from 19.03.2021 to 05.04.2021 from 09:00 hrs to 15:00 hrs, upon payment of a non refundable fee of Rs.2,000.00 for Lot No : 4,6,7,8,9,10,12 and other lots' fee shall be Rs 3500.00. The method of payment shall be by cash.
- Bids shall be delivered to the Chairman of the respective Procurement Committee as indicated in the table below at Department of Irrigation, Northern Province, New Colony Lane, A9 Road, Mankulam at or before 13:00 hrs on 07.04.2021. Late Bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened immediately after the closing in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend.
- Bids shall be valid as indicated in the form of bid. (Section-4).
- All bids shall be accompanied by a bid security in the form of Bid Security included in Section-9. The amount and validity of the bid security shall be as per details given in Section-5.
- Pre-bid meeting will be held at Department of Irrigation, Northern Province, New Colony Lane, A9 Road, Mankulam commencing at 10.00 hrs on 26.03.2021.

The Table referred to above is:

Lot No.	Title of Contract & Contract Identification Number	PC	Proposed contract Price (Rs.Mn)	Bid Security Amount (Rs)	Construction Period (Days)	Required CIDA Grade
Mullaitivu District						
1	Rehabilitation to Lift Irrigation Scheme at Visuvamadu Indian Housing Scheme PSDG/MUL/MIK/2021/01	RPC	23.00	450,000.00	180	C6 or C5 Irrigation & Drainage Canals
2	Rehabilitation to Ampalaperumalkulam Head works PSDG/MUL/VVK/2021/01	DPC	32.20	644,000.00	180	C5 or C4 Irrigation & Drainage Canals
Kilinochchi District						
3	Rehabilitation of Field Canals under LB Main under Akkarayan Irrigation Scheme PSDG/KOC/KIW/2021/01	RPC	12.88	250,000.00	160	C6 or C5 Irrigation & Drainage Canals
4	Rehabilitation of Solainagar Irrigation Canal under Puthumurippu Irrigation Scheme PSDG/KOC/KIW/2021/02	Div. PC	4.60	80,000.00	105	C8 or C7 Irrigation & Drainage Canals
5	Rehabilitation of Iranamadu Irrigation Scheme Downstream & Head works PSDG/KOC/KIE/2021/01	RPC	11.04	220,000.00	140	C6 or C5 Irrigation & Drainage Canals
6	Rehabilitation of Drainage Structures under Iranamadu Irrigation Scheme PSDG/KOC/KIE/2021/02	Div. PC	4.60	80,000.00	105	C8 or C7 Irrigation & Drainage Canals
7	Rehabilitation of Thiruvaiaru Lift Irrigation Scheme under Iranamadu Irrigation Scheme PSDG/KOC/KIE/2021/03	Div. PC	1.80	35,000.00	90	C9 or C8 Irrigation & Drainage Canals
8	Rehabilitation to Kandawalai Irrigation canals under Kalmadu Irrigation Scheme PSDG/KOC/KIE/2021/04	Div. PC	9.20	180,000.00	140	C7 or C6 Irrigation & Drainage Canals
9	Improvements to Conference Hall, Cycle park, Store & Quarters REC(Building)/KOC/KIE/2021/01	Div. PC	2.266	45,000.00	75	C8 or C7 Building
Jaffna District						
10	Rehabilitation of Allaipeddy East SWE Bund and Kallundai SWE Bund. PSDG/KOC/JAF/2021/01	Div. PC	6.44	120,000.00	140	C7 or C6 Irrigation & Drainage Canals
11	Rehabilitation of Mathu Bund and downstream of Thondamanaru barrage and the Vadamarachi lagoon scheme. PSDG/KOC/JAF/2021/02	RPC	10.12	200,000.00	160	C6 or C5 Irrigation & Drainage Canals
Vavuniya District						
12	Rehabilitation of Kalmadu Tank head works & Downstream developments PSDG/VAV/VAV/2021/02	Div. PC	4.60	80,000.00	90	C7 or C8 Irrigation & Drainage Canals
13	Rehabilitation of Periyathampanai Tank head works & Downstream developments PSDG/VAV/CHE/2021/03	RPC	11.04	220,000.00	120	C6 or C5 Irrigation & Drainage Canals

PC: Procurement Committee,
Div. PC: Divisional Procurement Committee,
Director of Irrigation,
Irrigation Department,
Northern Province.

RPC: Regional Procurement Committee
DPC: Department Procurement Committee

Date:18.03.2021

T.P: 021 2285472, 021 2285652

**BANK OF CEYLON
INVITATION FOR BIDS**

Sealed Bids are hereby invited from reputed Manufactures / Suppliers or their Accredited Local Agents for Supply of the following Gift items as given below.

Bid No.	P/PROC/2021/90
Description of the Procurement	Purchase of following Gift items □ 200 nos Leather Bag □ 60,000 nos Exercise books (80 pgs)
Applicable non-refundable bidding Documents Fee	Rs.1,080 /- (Rs. 1,000/- + Rs.80/- VAT)
Value of the Bid Bond to be submitted	Rs. 50,000/=
Last date & time of issuing bidding Documents	31.03.2021 at 1500 hrs
Date & time of closing bid	01.04.2021 at 1000 hrs

- Bid Documents could be obtained from Properties & Procurement Department, 14th Floor, Bank of Ceylon Head Office, "BOC Square", No. 01, Bank of Ceylon Mawatha, Colombo 01, submitting a written request and paying non refundable fee of Rs.1,080/- including VAT. (Rs.1,000/- + Rs.80/- VAT) between 0900 hrs and 1500hrs on working days of the Bank.
- Perfect bid documents should be accompanied by a Bank Guarantee / Bid Bond for the value relevant to the bid as indicated above issued by a commercial bank (other than Bank of Ceylon) acceptable to the Bank of Ceylon and valid upto 29.07.2021. Cash deposits / Bank Pay Orders / Bank Drafts (not personal cheques) are also acceptable in lieu of Bid Bonds.
- Bids will be opened immediately after closing at 1000 hrs on the due date and the bids received later than 1000 hrs will be rejected and returned unopened.
- The Bank of Ceylon reserves the right of rejecting any or all bids and the right of accepting any portion of a bid without adducing any reasons.
- Further details could be obtained from the Chief Manager, Properties & Procurement Dept.

BANK OF CEYLON
BOC
Bankers to the Nation

Chief Manager
Properties & Procurement Department,
14th Floor, Bank of Ceylon,
"BOC Square",
No. 01, Bank of Ceylon Mawatha,
Colombo 01.
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BOARD OF INVESTMENT OF SRI LANKA

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

BALANCE IMPROVEMENTS TO THE SERVICE BUILDINGS BELONGING TO BOI LOCATED IN BIYAGAMA EXPORT PROCESSING ZONE (BEPZ)

CONTRACT NO : BOI/BEPZ/ES/2021/02/05.019

- The Chairman, Department Procurement Committee on behalf of the Board of Investment of Sri Lanka (BOI) invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for **Balance Improvements to the Service Buildings Belonging to BOI located in Biyagama Export Processing Zone (BEPZ).**
- Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding procedure.
- To be eligible for contract award, the successful bidder shall not have been blacklisted and shall meet the following requirements:
Construction Industry Development Authority (CIDA) Registration
Specialty : Building Constructions
Grade : C 7 or above
- Qualification requirements to qualify for contract award include:
Experience as a Main Contractor for at least one contract of a similar nature equivalent to the proposed work over the period of last 5 years.
- Interested bidders may obtain further information from the Office of Senior Deputy Director (Engineering Services), Engineering Services Department, Board of Investment of Sri Lanka, Biyagama Export Processing Zone, Walgama, Malwana, on Tele: 0112-465214, 0112-465222 and 0112-465206-9 or Fax 0112-465222 and inspect bidding documents from the same address between 09.00 hrs and 16.00 hrs during normal working days.
- A complete set of Bidding Documents in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on submission of a written application to the Senior Deputy Director (Engineering Services) of Board of Investment of Sri Lanka, Biyagama Export Processing Zone from **22 March 2021 until 20 April 2021 between 09.00 hrs and 15.00 hrs** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Rs 3,000.00 + VAT in cash to the Shroff at the Finance Department of Board of Investment of Sri Lanka, Biyagama Export Processing Zone, Walgama, Malwana.
- Sealed bids shall be delivered in duplicate to reach the Chairman, Procurement Committee, C/o Senior Deputy Director (Engineering Services), Engineering Services Department, Board of Investment of Sri Lanka, Biyagama Export Processing Zone, Walgama, Malwana at or before **14.00 hrs on 21 April 2021**. Please mark clearly on the envelope containing the bid "**Balance Improvements to the Service Buildings Belonging to BOI located in Biyagama Export Processing Zone (BEPZ) and Contract No. BOI/BEPZ/ES/2021/02/05.019.**" Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened soon after closing time in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend.
- All bids shall be valid up to **06 July 2021**.
- All bids shall be accompanied by a Bid Security of Rupees **Ninety Thousand (Rs. 90,000/-)**. Bid Security shall be valid up to 03 August 2021.
- A pre bid meeting will be held at **10.00 hrs on 26 March 2021** at the Office of Director (Zone) of Board of Investment of Sri Lanka, Biyagama Export Processing Zone, Walgama, Malwana.

**CHAIRMAN
BOARD OF INVESTMENT OF SRI LANKA**



BHIKSU UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA - ANURADHAPURA

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

GARDEN MAINTENANCE AND PROVISION OF LANDSCAPING SERVICES - 2021/2022

Sealed Bids are hereby invited by the Chairman, Department Procurement Committee (DPC) of the Bhiksu University of Sri Lanka from qualified and eligible Bidders to conduct the services of Landscaping and Garden Maintenance Services of this University for the Year 2021/2022.

- Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedure.
- Period of contract is one (01) year.
- Bidders should have to fulfill one of the following primary / basic qualification criteria.
 - CIDA SP4 eligibility or above or
 - Be registered as a recognized Business Venture / Company.
 - Be an active company based organization (CBO) registered under the Divisional Secretary (should have to submit the capability / feasibility certificate issued by the Divisional Secretary, along with the Bidding Documents by the CBO).
- Bidders should have fulfilled the following service experience.

03 (three) years of service experience in the relevant field. (This should include a minimum of one (01) year service experience in similar capacity in the relevant field).
- Bidding documents of this Procurement could be inspected up to **05.04.2021** at the General Administration Department of this University, during office hours or visiting the University Website : (www.busl.ac.lk)
- Bidding documents will be issued by the General Administration Department of this University from 9.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. on working days of the week, from **17.03.2021 to 05.04.2021** for this purpose, the receipt for the payment of a non-refundable fee of Rupees One Thousand (Rs. 1000/-) paid to the Cashier of the University, as the Bidding Document fee, attached along with a request letter, should be submitted to the Senior Assistant Registrar (General Administration).
- Duly completed sealed Bids in duplicate (two copies) enclosed in two separate covers, marked as the "Original" and "Duplicate" respectively clearly and both enclosed in another single envelope should either be sent by registered post, addressed to the Chairman, Department Procurement Committee, Bhiksu University of Sri Lanka (BUSL), Puttalam Road, Anuradhapura or deposited in the Tender Box kept at the above address, to receive on or before 2.00 p.m. on **06.04.2021**.
- On the top left-hand corner of the envelope enclosing sealed Bids should be clearly marked with the caption to the effect "**Supply of Garden Maintenance and Landscaping Services 2021/2022**". Bids will be opened at 2.15 p.m. on **06.04.2021** in the presence of the Bidder or one of his accredited representatives who choose to attend.
- All the Bids should be valid up to **22.06.2021**.
- All the Bids should be accompanied by a Bid Security valid up to **19.07.2021** of Rupees Sixty Thousand (Rs. 60,000/=) issued by a recognized commercial bank, approved by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka and payment for Bid Security could also be made through the Cashier of this University.
- A Pre Bid Meeting with the Bidders will be held at 10.00 a.m. on **30.03.2021** at the Senate House of this University. All the Bidders are kindly requested to participate at this meeting.

**Chairman,
Department Procurement Committee,
Bhiksu University of Sri Lanka,
Puttalam Road, Anuradhapura.**

17.03.2021

**INVITATION TO BID
CEYLON ELECTRICITY BOARD**

Bid No: CE/BMPP/LUB OIL/20/2

SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF LUBRICATING OIL FOR THE BARGE MOUNTED POWER PLANT FOR THE YEAR 2021/2022

Chairman, Ministry Procurement Committee (MPC) on behalf of the Ceylon Electricity Board (Employer), invites sealed bids under National Competitive Bidding (NCB) from Manufacturers / their authorised agents for supply and delivery of following lubricating oil quantities to Barge Mounted Power Plant (BMPP) up to **10.00 hrs on 21-04- 2021**.

- Supply and Delivery of 780,000 (Seven hundred and eighty thousand) liters of **Cylinder Lubricating Oil** in the category of **SAE 50** and **Neutralization Capacity (TBN) 70 mg KOH/g** for 12K MC-S Mitsui-MAN B&W Two stroke, Low Speed Diesel Engines for the year 2021/2022.
- Supply and Delivery of 180,000 (One hundred and eighty thousand) liters of **System Lubricating Oil** in the category of **SAE 30** and **Neutralization Capacity (TBN) 5~10 mg KOH/g** for 12K MC-S Mitsui-MAN B&W Two stroke, Low Speed Diesel Engines for the year 2021/2022.

You may refer the CEB web site; <https://ceb.lk/tender-notice/en> for informative copy of the bid documents and the approved lists of lubricating oils in respect of above two categories.

(Please note that no oil other than the oil stated in the OEM recommended list is accepted in this bid). Bidders can collect samples of lubricating oil currently in operation from the Chief Engineer BMPP, Ceylon Electricity Board, Colombo Port, Kotahena, Colombo 13.

Bidding Documents may be purchased between 09.00 hrs and 15.00 hrs on any working day till 20 -04-2021 by the eligible Bidders for supply & delivery of lubricating oil under this contract from the Office of the Deputy General Manager (Thermal Complex), Ground Floor, Generation Headquarters, Ceylon Electricity Board, New Kelani Bridge Road, Kolonnawa, Wellampitiya, 10600, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Rs. 35,000/- in cash or by bank draft drawn in favor of the General Manager, CEB, per set of documents. Bids should be submitted only on documents purchased from the CEB.

Please note that if the bidder is not the manufacturer, the authorized Suppliers/Agents should submit the letter of authorization issued by the Lubricating oil manufacturer.

Bids may be sent through registered post to reach Deputy General Manager (Corporate Affairs), 2nd Floor, Generation Headquarters, Ceylon Electricity Board, New Kelani Bridge Road, Kolonnawa, Wellampitiya 10600 **at or before 10.00 hrs on 21-04-2021** or could be deposited in the Bid box provided for this purpose at the same office before the stated deadline. Late Bids shall be rejected.

Bids will be opened at the Office of the Deputy General Manager (Corporate Affairs), 2nd Floor, Generation Headquarters, Ceylon Electricity Board, New Kelani Bridge Road, Kolonnawa, Wellampitiya, 10600 immediately after the closing time of the Bid in the presence of Bidders or their authorised representatives.

All clarifications shall be sought one week before the date of the closing of bidding, from the Office of the Chief Engineer, Barge Mounted Power Plant, Ceylon Electricity Board, Colombo Port, Kotahena, Colombo 13.

(Tel: +94 11 2449690 / +94 11 2303004)

**Chairman, Ministry Procurement Committee
On behalf of General Manager
Ceylon Electricity Board.
P.O. Box 540,
Chittampalam A. Gardiner Mw.
Colombo 02.**



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RATNAPURA. 045-2223883, 0777-221939
 Lake House Advertising Centre, No. 88, Main Street,
RATNAPURA. 045-2230730
 G.G. Karunaratne, No. 16, Church Road

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AMBALANGODA. 091-2258483, 0779639214
 "Royal Book Shop", No. 152, Main Street,
BADDEGAMA. 091 2292263, 091 3926084
 Gamage Book Shop,
BENTOTA 034-2270090, 034 2270572
 Sumudu News Papers, No. 117, Galle Rd,
ELPITIYA. 091-2290746, 077-2609456
 Chardima Groceries,
GALLE. 091-2232733, 091-5627646
 New Aradhana Traders, 81, Maha Veediya,
GALLE. 0914-385548/0914-924261
 Parinagama Traders, No. 28, P & J City, Ganini Mw,
HAMBANTOTA. 047-2220808, 0716-370337
 Misriya Stores, No. 37, Mahajana Poia,
HIKKADUWA. 091-2277792, 091-2277285
 Galage News Agencies, No. 270A, Galle Rd,
MATARA. 041-2222185, 0414921530
 Mimmi Stores, 89, Dharmapala Mawatha,
TANGALLE 047-2240402
 No. 158, Matara Road,
WALAHANDUWA 091-2222915
 Madula Velendaseela, Italgoda

UVA PROVINCE

BADULLA 055 2225616, 0777-444678
 Lake House Advertising Office, No. 14, Opp.
 Muthiyangana Clock Tower,
BANDARAWELA. 057-222145, 071 8269555
 Nayana Book Shop, No. 34B,
MONARAGALA. 055-2276397, 055-2276108
 No. 19, Siri Ramya Stores,

CENTRAL PROVINCE

KANDY 081-4476362, 081-2222780
 Jayakody Agencies, No. 229/A, Peradeniya Road,
GAMPOLA 081-2352379, 081-4485628
 No. 24, Nuwara Eliya Road,
GAMPOLA 081-2352346, 081-2354547
 Dawasa Centre, No. 14, Station Road,
MATALE 066-2222126
 Malaka Traders (Pvt) Ltd. 55-57, Main Street
RATTOTA 066-2255292
 S.J. Enterprises, No. 6, T.D. Jayarathne Mw,
UKUWELA 066-2244225
 Coronation Hotel & Bakery, No. 09, Kalpitiya Rd,

EASTERN PROVINCE

TRINCOMALEE. 026-2225558
 Trincomalee Lake House, 447, Dockyard Road,
TRINCOMALEE. 026-2222962, 071-8175933
 A.S. Abdul Hameed, No. 333, Kandy Rd, Andamkulam.
BATTICALOA 065-2226034
 Priya Stores, No. 01, Market Road,
KATHANKUDY 065-2246983, 0777-435566
 A.L.M. Uwais, Old Post Office Building

NORTH CENTRAL PROVINCE

ANURADHAPURA
 Swarna Stores, No. 6, Kadapanaha, Anuradhapura.
KURUNDANKULAMA 025-2221411
 Metale Junction, Mihintale Road,
POLONNARUWA 027-2222145, 077 1067968
 Galle City Stores, Kaduruwela,

NORTH WESTERN PROVINCE

KURUNEGALA. 0372222133, 037-2223790
 Sampath Advertising Office, No. 15/6, Mihindu Mw,
CHILAW. 032-2221400, 077 3539397
 Sathara Book Shop, Aluthwatta Road,
WAIKKALA. 0714-878252
 Kithsiri Stores, Walaauwa Junction,

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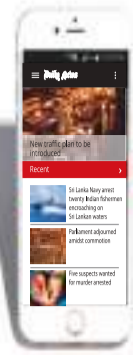


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BOARD OF INVESTMENT OF SRI LANKA
INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

DISPOSAL OF IDLING ITEMS LYING AT NWS & DB PREMISES IN BIYAGAMA EXPORT PROCESSING ZONE (BEPZ)

CONTRACT NO : BOI/BEPZ/ES/2021/02

- The Chairman, Department Procurement Committee on behalf of the Board of Investment of Sri Lanka (BOI) invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for **Disposal of Idling Items Lying at NWS & DB Premises in Biyagama Export Processing Zone (BEPZ), Walgama, Malwana.**
- Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding procedure.
- Those who are interested to dispose of idling items lying at NWS&DB Premises in BEPZ are eligible to submit bids.
- Interested bidders may obtain further information from the Office of Senior Deputy Director (Engineering Services), Engineering Services Department, Board of Investment of Sri Lanka, Biyagama Export Processing Zone, Walgama, Malwana, on Tele: 0112-465214, 0112-465222 and 0112-465206-9 or Fax 0112-465222 and inspect bidding documents from the same address between 09.00 hrs and 16.00 hrs during normal working days.
- A complete set of Bidding Documents in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on submission of a written application to the Senior Deputy Director (Engineering Services) of Board of Investment of Sri Lanka, Biyagama Export Processing Zone from **22 March 2021 until 20 April 2021 between 09.00 hrs and 15.00 hrs** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **Rs 1,000.00 + VAT** in cash to the Shroff at the Finance Department of Board of Investment of Sri Lanka, Biyagama Export Processing Zone, Walgama, Malwana.
- Sealed bids shall be delivered in duplicate to reach the Chairman, Procurement Committee, C/o Senior Deputy Director (Engineering Services), Engineering Services Department, Board of Investment of Sri Lanka, Biyagama Export Processing Zone, Walgama, Malwana on or before **15.00 hrs on 21 April 2021**. Please mark clearly on the envelope containing the bid **"Disposal of Idling Items Lying at NWS & DB Premises in Biyagama Export Processing Zone (BEPZ)."** Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened soon after closing time in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend.
- Bids shall be valid upto **19 June 2021**.
- A pre bid meeting will be held at **11.00 hrs on 26 March 2021** at the office of Director (Zone) of Board of Investment of Sri Lanka, Biyagama Export Processing Zone at Walgama, Malwana.
- All bids shall be accompanied with a copy of the receipt of refundable bid deposit of **Rs. 50,000.00 (Fifty Thousand)** deposited in cash to the Shroff at Finance Department of Board of Investment of Sri Lanka, Biyagama Export Processing Zone and Bids submitted without a copy of the receipt of deposit will be rejected.

CHAIRMAN
BOARD OF INVESTMENT OF SRI LANKA

NOTICE

On this day has been incorporated as a Private Company with Limited Liability having complied with the requirements of the Companies Act No. 7 of 2007.
Company Name : **Nature's Pick Cinnamon (Private) Limited**
Registered No : **PV 00235325**
Registered Date : **22.02.2021**
Registered Office : **No. 9/1, Sirimangala Mawatha, Walpola, Matara.**

PROCUREMENT NOTICE

TEACHING HOSPITAL, MAHAMODERA

Sealed quotations are invited up to 10.00 a.m. on 08.04.2021 from eligible State and Private Institutions providing Air-conditioner Servicing and Maintenance work for providing these services to the Mahamodera Teaching Hospital, Galle for the Year 2021/2022. The relevant Specimen Forms could be obtained up to 2.30 p.m. on 07.04.2021 from the Head Office of this Hospital after paying a fee of Rs. 500.00. The envelope containing the quotation should be marked **"Quotation for Air-conditioner Servicing and Maintenance"** on the top left-hand corner and sent by Registered Post to the **Chairman, Regional Procurement Committee, Teaching Hospital, Mahamodera, Galle** or could be inserted in the Tender Box kept in the Director's Office. Further details could be obtained during office hours.

Chairman,
Regional Procurement Committee,
Teaching Hospital, Mahamodera,
Galle.
091-2222261



DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA
MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT/ SRI LANKA RAILWAYS
COLOMBO SUBURBAN RAILWAY EFFICIENCY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT
INVITATION FOR BIDS

Date: **18.03.2021**
Loan No. and Title: **ADB Loan No. 3806-SRI**
Contract No. and Title: **REIP/ADB/ICB/G/11**

Design, Manufacture, Supply, Commissioning and Handing Over of 400-500 Ton Meter Capacity (Not less than 50 Ton Lifting Capacity) Railway Mobile Hydraulic Crane with Match Wagon for Emergency and Rescue Services of Sri Lanka Railways.

Deadline for Submission of Bids: 25.05.2021

- The Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka has applied for a loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) towards the cost of the Railway Efficiency Improvement Project (REIP). A portion of this loan will be applied for eligible payments under the contract named above.
- The Ministry of Transport /Sri Lanka Railways ("The Employer") now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the following contract package:

IFB No.	Contract Title	Location	Duration (Months)
REIP/ADB/ICB/G/11	Design, Manufacture, Supply, Commissioning and Handing Over of 400-500 Ton Meter Capacity (Not less than 50 Ton Lifting Capacity) Railway Mobile Hydraulic Crane with Match Wagon for Emergency and Rescue Services of Sri Lanka Railways.	Sri Lanka	15 Months

- The International Competitive Bidding will be conducted in accordance with ADB's Single-Stage: Two-Envelope Bidding Procedure with post Qualifications.
- Eligible bidders must meet the following criteria:
 - Pending Litigation shall not represent more than 50% of the bidder's net worth.
 - The bidders' net worth within last 3 years shall be positive.
 - Minimum Average Annual Turnover of US\$ 3.6 million calculated as total payments received by the bidder for contracts completed or under execution over the last three (03) years.
 - Experience in Key activities (i) Similar Contractual Experience (ii) Technical Experience

We have not mentioned all the details of criteria (iv) above in this advertisement. Please refer Project Web Site <https://csrp.lk/procurement>. If you have any clarifications, please contact Telephone No 0094-11-2056240-41 (Ext. 301-302)

To obtain further information and inspect the bidding documents, eligible bidders should contact:
Project Director
Project Management Unit
Colombo Suburban Railway Project (CSRP)
No. 217, Cotta Road
Colombo 08, Sri Lanka
Telephone: 0094-11-2056240-41
Facsimile: 0094-11-2674354
E-mail: pd@csrp.lk or palitha.rail@yahoo.com
Web site - www.csrp.lk

- To purchase the bidding documents in (English) eligible bidders should;
 - Write to address above requesting for the bidding documents for the Contract Package No. REIP/ADB/ICB/G/11
 - Pay a non-refundable fee of Sri Lankan Rupees (SLR) 40,000 00 or US\$ 225.00 (Including VAT) or by cash or bank draft in favour of "Railway Efficiency Improvement Project", 0007040317, Bank of Ceylon, Battaramulla in respect of the bidding document.

Bidding documents will be issued during normal working days from 9 00 a.m. to 3 00 p.m. at the address under 6 above, **from 18.03.2021 until before bid submission deadline.**

- Bidders should deliver.
 - Their bids to the address below **on or before the deadline: 2:00 pm on 25.05.2021.**

The Chairman
Ministry Procurement Committee
C/o Director- Procurement
Ministry of Transport
7th Floor, Sethsiripaya Stage II,
Battaramulla, Sri Lanka
- Together with a Bid Security in the amount as specified in the Bidding Documents. For the purpose of determining the equivalent amount of the required Bid Security in a freely convertible currency, the selling exchange rate published by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka prevailing on the date 28 days prior to the deadline for Bid submission shall be applied.

- Pre-Bid meeting will be held on **09.04.2021 at 10.30 a.m.** at the Auditorium of Ministry of Transport, 7th Floor, Sethsiripaya Stage II, Battaramulla.
- The Technical Bids will be opened immediately after the deadline in the presence of bidders' representatives who choose to attend
- Late bids shall be rejected.
- The bidder shall bear all costs associated with the preparation and submission of its Bids, and the Employer shall not be responsible or liable for those costs, regardless of the conduct or outcome of the bidding process

The Chairman
Ministry Procurement Committee
C/o Director- Procurement
Ministry of Transport
7th Floor, Sethsiripaya Stage II.
Battaramulla, Sri Lanka



Chief Secretary's Secretariat,
Eastern Province

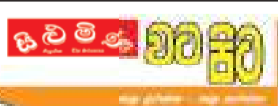
INVITATION FOR BIDS

- The Chairman, Chief Secretary's Procurement Committee invites sealed bids for providing Security services and Janitorial services to the Institutions of Eastern Provincial Council for year 2021 from eligible bidders who possess valid business registration as an individual or company. Bidders who bid for security services should have the valid registration with Defense Ministry.
- A set of bidding documents in English language may be purchased on submission of a written application during office hours **from 18th of March 2021 up to 07th of April 2021 on working hours** at the office of the **Deputy Chief Secretary (Engineering services & Infrastructure), Eastern Province, Kanniya Road, Varothayanagar, Trincomalee** on payment for non-refundable fee of **Rs. 20,000.00**.
- Procurement method will be National Competitive Bidding, Single stage Single envelope system.
- A bidder is entitled to obtain the bidding documents in duplicate. Interested bidders may inspect the bidding document free of charge prior to collection if desired and obtain further information from the **Deputy Chief Secretary (Engineering Services & Infrastructure) Eastern Province, Kanniya Road, Varothayanagar (Telephone Number: 026- 2222009).**
- Bid accompanied by a bid security for the amount mentioned below shall reach the **Chairman, Chief Secretary's Procurement Committee, Office of the Chief Secretary, Eastern Province, Kanniya Road, Varothayanagar, Trincomalee** at or before **2.30 p.m. on 08th of April 2021**. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened soon after closing in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend.
- A pre-bid meeting will be held on **29th of March 2021 at 10.00 a.m.** at the office of the Deputy Chief Secretary (Engineering Services & Infrastructure), Eastern Province, Kanniya Road, Varothayanagar, Trincomalee.
- Selection of bidder will be based on the evaluation and qualification criteria given in Section III Page 26.
- Procurement committee's decision is the final in awarding contract.

TABLE

Bid Number	Name of Work	Contract Period	Bid Validity period	Bid Security	
				Amount (Rs)	Validity Period
EPC/SS/2021	Providing Security Services to the Institutions of Eastern Provincial Council - 2021	12 Months from the date of awarding	Up to 07 th of July 2021	1,200,000.00	Up to 04 th of August 2021
EPC/JS/2021	Providing Janitorial Services to the Institutions of Eastern Provincial Council - 2021	12 Months from the date of awarding	Up to 07 th of July 2021	630,000.00	Up to 04 th of August 2021

Thusitha P. Wanigasingha,
Chairman,
Chief Secretary's Procurement Committee,
Chief Secretary's Secretariat Kanniya Road,
Varothayanagar,
Trincomalee.



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Matara - TEL : 041 22 35 412 FAX : 041 22 29 728 / Nugegoda - TEL : 011 2 828 114 FAX : 011 4 300 860 / Jaffna - TEL : 021 2225361 FAX : 021 22 25 361

Land Acquisition Act (Chapter 460) Order under Section 39A(1)

The allotment specified in the Order No. 80 of 14.07.2004 made under the Proviso (a) to Section 38 of the Land Acquisition Act (Chapter 460) and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 1347/17 dated 15th July 2004 is vested absolutely in the State and the possession of which has been taken for or on behalf of the State under Para (a) of Section 40 of the aforesaid Act. But by virtue of powers vested in me by sub section (1) of Section 39 (a) (inserted by Act No. of 1979) of the Land Acquisition Act I, Samarakoon Mudiyansele Chandrasena, Minister of Lands, do hereby divest only the allotment specified in the Schedule 1 below.

Sgd./S.M. Chandrasena
Minister of Lands

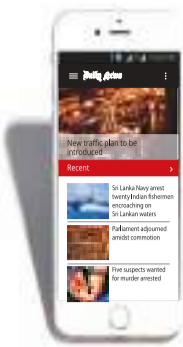
My Ref No. 13/99/E/425
Divisional Secretary's No. LA/4/1/49 (DS/HAB/LAN/02/12)
On the 12th Day of October 2020
Minister of Lands
"Mihikatha Medura"
Rajamalwatta Avenue,
Battaramulla.

Schedule I

An allotment of land depicted below name and extent in the Preliminary Plan No. GA 4436 dated 26.11.2019 prepared by the Surveyor General, situated in the village called Heenatigala in the Grama Niladhari Division No. 143 of Dodampe in the Divisional Secretary's Division of Habaraduwa in Galle District of Southern Province and bounded as follows.

- Lot No. - 02 - Godawatte Extent: 0.2336 Hectare
 - North - Lot No. 01 of this plan
 - East - Lot No. 1 of P.P. GA 48, Punchigodawatte claimed by G.G. Wimalasena
 - South - Road (RDA) and Godawatte claimed by M.G. Gunawantha and others
 - West - Godawatte claimed by M.G. Gunawantha and others and Weniwilawatte claimed by A.P.A. Dias

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TENDER NOTICE

Sealed Tenders are invited from reputable Companies who are capable for Oracle Software Update & Support Renewal for Colombo International Container Terminals Limited ("CICT") 2021/22.

Tender No.	Description of Work
RFQ/02/03/21	Oracle Software Update License & Support Renewal for 2021/22

Prospective Vendors are requested to obtain Tender Documents (In Electronic Format Only) by email (Email : ranidu.laksiri@cict.lk) of Procurement Department of CICT (Mob/Tel : 0766-666803, 0112-666803).

Please submit your sealed Tenders to be received to below address not later than **3.00 p.m. (local time), on 08th April 2021** & mention "Oracle Software Update License & Support Renewal for 2021/22" on the top left-hand corner of the envelope.

Procurement Department,
Colombo International Container Terminals Limited,
Port of Colombo,
120/20, Marine Drive Road,
Colombo 01,
Sri Lanka.



GOVERNMENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA
MINISTRY OF HIGHWAYS
ROAD DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY



INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

- The Chairman, Road Development Authority Procurement Committee, on behalf of the Road Development Authority (RDA), invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the **project** described below :-

Contract No.	Contract Name	Engineer's Estimate w/o contingencies (Mn)	CIDA Grade	Bid Security (Rs) (Mn)	Contract Period (Calendar days)
RDA/DC/NWP/-IR-GOSL/2021/26	Construction of Pedestrian Underpass in front of Sir John Kotalawela College, Kurunegala.	61.5	C3 or C4	1.0	182

- The work consists of construction of underpass in front of Sir John Kotalawela College, Kurunegala.
- Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding Procedure.
- To be eligible for contract award, the successful bidder shall be currently registered with the Construction Industry Development Authority (CIDA) in grade given in the above table in **bridge** specialty.
- Interested bidders may obtain further information from the following offices and inspect the bidding documents via www.rda.gov.lk from **18.03.2021**.
 - Provincial Director (NWP), Road Development Authority, Kurunegala.
T: 037-2223250 Fax: 037-2228076
 - Director (Construction), Road Development Authority, 3rd Floor, "Maganeguma Mahamedura", 216, Denzil Kobbekaduwa Mawatha, Battaramulla.
T P : 011-2864388 Fax: 011-2861821
- The Pre-Bid meeting will be held at **10:00 hrs. on 25/03/2021** at the office of the **Provincial Director (NWP), Road Development Authority, Kurunegala** and a site visit will be arranged thereafter if necessary.
- A complete set of Bidding Documents in English language shall be purchased by interested bidders on submission of a written application to the **Provincial Director (NWP), RDA, Kurunegala OR Director (Construction), 3rd Floor, "Maganeguma Mahamedura", 216, Denzil Kobbekaduwa Mawatha, Battaramulla** from **18/03/2021** until **07/04/2021** during **09:00 hrs to 15:00 hrs** upon payment of a non refundable fee.

Non - refundable tender fee of **Rs.13,500.00** (with VAT) can be paid by depositing cash to the following account.

- Account Name : Director General - RDA
- Account Number : 0000001943
- Bank Name : Bank of Ceylon - Corporate Branch

As per the Public Contract Act No. 3 of 1987, only the Agents and Successful winners of tenders shall be registered in Department of Registrar of Companies.

- Bid shall be accompanied by a Bid- Security for an amount given in the above table. Bid- Security shall be valid up to **05/08/2021**.
- Bids shall be delivered in **duplicate** to the **Chairman, Road Development Authority Procurement Committee, C/o Director General, Road Development Authority, 1st Floor, "Maganeguma Mahamedura", Denzil Kobbekaduwa Mawatha, Battaramulla** on or before **14:00 hrs on 08/04/2021**. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened soon after the closing, in the presence of the bidders' or their representatives who choose to attend.
- Bids shall be valid up to **08/07/2021**.

The Chairman
Road Development Authority Procurement Committee
Road Development Authority,
First Floor, "Maganeguma Mahamedura",
Denzil Kobbekaduwa Mawatha,
Battaramulla.



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லங்கா சீனி நிறுவனம் (தனியார்) லிமிடெட்
Lanka Sugar Company (Private) Limited



Ministry of Plantation

Bids Invited to Supplying, installation, commission and maintenance of Suitable Sprinkler Irrigation system

The Chairman of the Department Tender Committee for the Lanka Sugar Company (Private) Limited, invites bids from local suppliers or manufactures to supply the following item to the factory situated in Sevanagala.

Item	Hectare	Tender Ref.	Bid Bond Value
Supply installation commission and maintenance of Suitable Sprinkler Irrigation system	50Ha.	LSC/SEV/SPRIRG/21	500,000.00 (Valid for 90 days)

The bid document could be obtain from the Lanka Sugar head office No. 27 Melbourne Avenue Colombo 04 on any working day up to 12 noon 01st April 2021 for a non-refundable fee of Rs. 3000/-

Sealed bids should be indicated the tender number and the description and the description on the **top left corner of the envelope**. Sealed bids will be accepted up to 2.00 p.m on 5th April 2021 and the late bids will be reject. The decision of the tender board on regard shall be the final.

The bids will be opened immediately after closing the tender at the address given below.

Any Inquiries: Head Office - 077 2858085

**The Chairman - Department Procurement Committee
Lanka Sugar Company (Pvt) Ltd
No. 27, Melbourne Avenue,
Colombo 04**

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